Tommy John Blanks Cubs on Five Hits

16 Scoreless Innings for Him

Distinguished Living Terre Hauteans
Biography

T JUL 14 1973

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Last week it was Sally John's birthday and her husband Tommy, who pitches for the Los Angeles Dodgers, came within an eyelash of handing her a rather nice present—a victory over Pittsburgh Pirates.

The Dodgers got the win, all right, but Tommy, who was removed in the eighth inning for a pinch hitter, didn't get it.

So, Friday night, on their anniversary, he tried again and this time took no chances.

TOMMY JOHN

He shut out the Chicago Cubs, the leaders in the National League East, on five hits 5-0 for his fourth win in his last five decisions and seventh in his last nine.

It was also the Dodgers' third straight victory and their sixth in the last seven starts since losing six straight games.

They'll attempt to make it four straight tonight when Al Downing, 6-4, opposes Chicago's Burt Hooton, 8-7.

Steve Garvey slugged a three-run home run to highlight a four-run third inning against Chicago ace Ferguson Jenkins who suffered his 100th career defeat.

For John, it ran his personal string of scoreless innings to 16 and it was the Dodgers' second straight shutout, following Andy Messersmith's blanking of the St. Louis Cardinals the night before.

It also kept the Dodgers six games in front of second place San Francisco in the National League West and 6½ games in front of Cincinnati.

"I didn't think I'd last three innings as wild as I was," John said afterward.

But he straightened out quickly, retiring 12 Cubs in a row from the third through the fifth innings, then survived trouble in the sixth and seventh innings and finished with a flourish by getting the last seven batters in a row.

"I got the plays behind me," he said in praise of his infield which played errorless ball for the second night in a row and also turned over two double plays, the Dodgers' 100th and 101st of the season. "The line drive that Dave Lopes caught saved the game."

It was in the sixth with the Dodgers leading 5-0 but the Cubs had runners on first and second with only one out. Glenn Beckert hit a hard liner that Lopes gloved and then picked Cleo James off second to get out of the inning.

The Dodgers missed a chance in the second inning when they loaded the bases. But they loaded them again in the third and this time got on the board.

Singles by Lopes and Bill Buckner, who had three of the Dodgers' eight hits, and a one-out walk to Joe Ferguson loaded the bases. Willie Crawford scored the first run with a sacrifice fly and then Garvey homered into the leftfield pavilion, his second homer of the year.

"I think," understated Garvey, "Jenkins didn't get the ball where he wanted it."

Willie Davis singled home Lopes in the fourth inning with the Dodgers' fifth run.

CHICAGO	ab	r	h	bi	LOS ANGELES	ab	r	h	bi
Monday cf	4	0	1	0	Lopes 2b	3	2	1	0
Beckert 2b	4	0	1	0	Buckner lf	4	1	3	1
BWilliams lf	4	0	0	0	WDavis cf	4	0	1	1
Cardenal rf	4	0	0	0	Ferguson c	2	1	1	1
Santo 3b	2	0	1	0	WCrwfrd rf	2	0	0	1
Fanzone 1b	3	0	1	0	Garvey 1b	4	1	1	3
Hundley c	3	0	0	0	Cey 3b	4	0	1	0
Kessinger ss	3	0	0	0	Russell ss	3	0	0	0
Jenkins p	1	0	0	0	John p	4	0	0	0
CJames ph	1	0	1	0					
Gura p	0	0	0	0					
Hickman ph	1	0	0	0					
Aker p	0	0	0	0					
Total	30	0	5	0	Total	30	5	8	5

Chicago 000 000 000— 0
Los Angeles 004 100 00x— 5

DP—Chicago 1, Los Angeles 2. LOB—Chicago 4, Los Angeles 7. 2B—Beckert, Buckner. HR—Garvey (2). SF—W.Crawford.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Jenkins (L,9-7)	5	7	5	5	5	3
Gura	2	1	0	0	0	1
Aker	1	0	0	0	0	2
John (W,9-4)	9	5	0	0	1	0

T—2:03. A—49,058.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Tommy John May

Community Affairs File

Need Surgery

Biography: J

Dodgers Recall Pitcher Rex Hudson from Minors

T JUL 19 1974

By JIM COUR
UPI Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—The Los Angeles Dodgers will be without Tommy John, their crack southpaw, for at least three weeks—and maybe for the season—in their bid to dethrone the Cincinnati Reds in the National League West.

On a Thursday night Andy Messersmith and the Dodgers gained a game on the Reds. John found ou he was going to be placed on the 21-day disabled list today.

"I'm not thinking negatively that I might not pitch the rest of the year," the 31-year-old left-hander said following the Dodgers' 7-5 victory over the Montreal Expos. "I think I'll be able to take a rest and come back and pitch the rest of the season. I think we have a great ball club and one pitcher's absence won't wreck the team.

"Maybe (Al) Downing or (Don) Sutton will pick up the slack."

Or maybe Rex Hudson?

Hudson is a 20-year-old right-hander who was recalled from Albuquerque of the Pacific Coast League Thursday night. Dodger skipper Walter Alston said Hudson, who was 13-3 at Albuquerque, may replace Doug Rau, who has a stiff neck, against the Philadelphia Phils tonight.

"The kid's got great promise and he could help us," insisted Alston.

The Dodgers beat the Expos as the Cincinnati Reds lost at home against Chicago to move in front by 6½ games in their division.

The win on Messersmith's 11th complete game in 22 starts this year broke Los Angeles' fourth three game losing streak of the year and came after five Dodger losses in six starts.

John, 13-3, was injur[illegible] Wednesday night and his injury was diagnosed Thursday night by Dr. Frank Jobe, the Dodgers' orthopedic specialist, as a ruptured ligament of his left elbow. Surgery may be required, according to Jobe.

"An injury is part of a pennant race," said Messersmith, who improved his record to 11-2 on a seven-hitter as the Dodgers scored seven runs in the fourth inning with Ron Cey and Jimmy Wynn belting two-run homers. "Any time you lose a front liner, you're in trouble. We've got depth. I just hope we're deep enough.

"Really, I don't think we'll have any more pressure on us with John out. He's gone. We'll have to live with that and forget it. We don't deserve to win the pennant if we can't do it with the 24 players left. And that's not taking anything away from Tommy."

Montreal won two of three from Los Angeles and ex-Dodger Willie Davis, who had a home run and a double in four trips for a 10-for-14 series against his former club.

After the series finale, Davis ran across the diamond to shake Messersmith's hand and the Dodger right-hander said:

"It was a personal thing. He's a good friend and I'm happy he's going well. Besides, he ought to say thanks after all the good pitches I threw him."

Elsewhere in National League action, Philadelphia downed San Diego 8-5, Pittsburgh

Continued On Page 11, Col. 2.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
ONE DEPOT SQUARE
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47807

Dodgers Recall

Continued From Page 10.

blanked Atlanta 4-0 and Houston routed St. Louis 8-2.

Cubs 3 Reds 2

Winning pitcher Bill Bonham and Rick Monday each doubled in the fifth inning in helping the Cubs to slow the Reds' challenge in the NL west. Bonham, who needed relief help from Oscar Zamora, was staked to an early 2-0 lead in the second, one run coming on Jose Cardenal's eighth homer. Zamora recorded his sixth save, while Bonham posted his ninth win against 11 losses.

Astros 8 Cardinals 2

Lee May drove in three runs with a solo homer and a bases-loaded double and the Astros, aided by three St. Louis errors, rallied for six runs in the seventh inning to help Claude Osteen to his ninth victory. Osteen, in winning his fourth straight, went the route, yielding eight hits, while Cards' ace Lynn McGlothen (12-6) took the loss.

Pirates 4 Braves 0

The Pirates streaked to their fifth in a row behind Jerry Reuss' eight-hit shutout pitching. Rightfielder Dusty Baker's double error allowed two runs to score in the fifth, while pinch-hitter Bob Robertson padded the Bucs' lead in the ninth with a two-run gound rule double after the bases were loaded. Hot hitting Richie Zisk collected two more hits for Pittsburgh to raise his average to .331, while Reuss upped his record to 9-7.

Phillie 8 Padres 5

Mike Schmidt slugged a three-run homer in the eighth inning—his 19th—to snap a 5-5 tie and enable the Phils to salvage the final game of the three-game series against the lowly Padres. Ron Schueler picked up the win and the Phils also moved 1 ½ games ahead of losing Montreal in the NL East race.

John, Tommy

Sp MAY 2 7 1978

Tommy John: symbol of determination

Biography

By Mike McCormick

Terre Haute's Tommy John has become a modern symbol of athletic courage and determination.

The former Gerstmeyer baseball and basketball star won the National League's "Comeback of the Year" award in 1976 and 1977 after recovering from arm surgery in 1974. His "bionic arm" amazed the medical profession and the baseball world two years ago when he won ten games after laying out the entire 1975 season.

Last year he exceeded even the most optimistic expectations by leading his Los Angeles Dodgers to the pennant with 20 regular season victories and the victory against the Philadelphia Phillies which enabled the Dodgers to advance to the World Series.

John has continued to amaze by his 6-1 start in 1978 and has contributed substantially with his bat in each of his victories. John's sixth victory this season gave him 160 career wins and brightened thoughts that he would reach his present career goal: 200 major league victories.

Last week, UCLA announced that Matt Odeski, a member of the Bruins' baseball team who overcame a badly pulled hamstring muscle in 1977 to hit .291 this season and rank among the team leaders in stolen bases and runs scored, was the recipient of the school's first annual "Tommy John Most Courageous Award." John was on hand for the presentation prior to UCLA's game against Pepperdine.

The newly established award will be presented each year to the member of the UCLA baseball team who exhibits the determination and courage to overcome obstacles in much the same manner John was able to recover from delicate surgery.

Coach Gary Adams called John the ideal symbol of athletic courage. "We feel the determination that Tommy displayed in his comeback drive deserves to be emulated by young athletes who might face similar obstacles. His successful comeback is what the spirit of athletics is all about and we feel the establishment of this award will be very meaningful to athletes who participate in our baseball program."

Congratulations, Tommy!

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE

DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File B10G — J

Fathers award

Tommy John thrilled by National

T s MAY 1 8 1984

By Charles J. Maloof
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

"This one far surpasses all the others," Terre Haute native Tommy John said Thursday from New York about receiving a National Fathers of 1984 award. John was one of 10 men chosen for the honor by the National Father's Day Committee.

The California Angels' pitcher, who will be on the mound against the New York Yankees tonight, was honored as the sports' father recipient Wednesday at the committee's 49th awards luncheon in Manhattan.

"The more you think about it, the bigger it is," John said in a telephone interview from his hotel room. "It makes you feel very, very good. My children mean more to me than anything that I could achieve in baseball."

He and his wife, Sally, reside in Anaheim, Calif., with their four children, Tammi, 9, Tommy III, 6, Travis, 5, and Taylor, 2. "It's great when you come home from the ballpark after trying to please the fans and realize your children love you for just being daddy," John said.

His advice to dads is to be affectionate to their offspring and not be afraid to show it. "Fathers, and mothers, too, should be friends with their children," said the 1961 Gerstmeyer High School graduate who began his major-league career in 1963 with the Cleveland Indians.

"I was born and raised in a Christian home and learned certain values — a close family unit was one of them," he said. "I had a super dad who always had time to play and coach me in sports. I wish I could be half the father he was."

Tommy John Sr., 3133 N. 16th St., agreed he had guided his son through the years and they had built a close relationship.

"He's a good Christian boy and trusts in the Lord," John Sr. said. "If he tells you he'll do something, he'll do it. I've never heard anyone say a bad word against him."

Ruth John said she and her husband didn't learn of their son's award until they saw the story in Thursday's Tribune-Star. "We were thrilled beyond words, it's quite an honor," she said.

The couple, who will observe their 50th wedding anniverary Monday but will celebrate with an open house Sunday at Rio Grande Baptist Church, said an appearance by their son "would make our day."

But the team's schedule will prohibit a stop here, John Jr., whose 41st birthday is Tuesday, said. "I wish there was some way to be there, but there's just no way I can make it."

Tribune-Star/Craig Johnson

Proud parents: Tommy Sr., Ruth admire Tommy Jr.'s family

Vigo County Public Library
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Community Affairs File
John, Tommy

John, Tommy J

John big reason for Dodgers' success

Terre Haute Distinguished Living

T AUG 3 197 Community Affairs File

By FRED McMANE
UPI Sports Writer

Two years ago Tommy John's chances of ever pitching again in the major leagues were considered remote by the nation's medical experts.

Today, baseball's answer to the "Bionic Man" is a major reason why the Los Angeles Dodgers are resting comfortably on top of the National League West, 14 games ahead of the defending world champion Cincinnati Reds.

With a pitching arm that has been rebuilt at the elbow, the 34-year-old left-hander is on his way toward becoming a 20-game winner for the first time in his career. John, the most consistent starter on the Dodgers' staff this season, notched his 12th victory in 16 decisions Tuesday night with a 10-strikeout, eight-hit performance in the Dodgers' 7-2 victory over the New York Mets.

"Tommy John is a better pitcher now than before he got hurt," said Mets' Manager Joe Torre after watching John baffle his troops.

"Joe's being kind," said John when Torre's message was relayed to him. "But I know my curve is better because I'm more conscious of throwing properly and not abusing my arm. Last year was the nutcracker year when I had to prove myself. I had to prove I could get the fastball by guys inside because if you can't do that you're through."

John was the Comeback Player of the Year last season when he went 10-10 with a 3.09 earned run average after bouncing back from elbow surgery which doctors doubted would be successful.

In 1974, John had a 13-3 record approaching the All-Star break and was enjoying his best season in the majors when he ruptured a ligament in his left elbow that threatened to cripple him for life. Knowing how much throwing a baseball meant to John, his doctors tried some radical surgery in which they took a piece of ligament from his right arm and replaced it in the left with the hopes that the transplanted ligament would "come alive again and perform."

The doctors were skeptical the surgery would work. In fact, Dr. Frank Jobe, the chief surgeon, told John's wife that on a scale of one to 10 his chances of ever pitching again were less than one.

But, through hard work and faith, John made a miraculous comeback and this year the elbow is even stronger.

"My arm looks different because it's bigger," said John. "There's more 'mass' in there. Actually, my elbow is better than any other pitcher in baseball because I've got larger ligaments than what God gave me."

John also delivered with the bat against the Mets as he drove in the tying run in the sixth inning. The Dodgers scored three times in the seventh, with Steve Yeager singling in a pair, and Ron Cey added a two-run homer, his 22nd, in the ninth. Steve Garvey also hit his 26th homer for Los Angeles.

In other NL games, Chicago defeated Cincinnati 5-2, Montreal routed San Francisco 10-2, St. Louis topped Atlanta 6-4, San Diego beat Philadelphia 4-2 and Pittsburgh downed Houston 6-3 in 10 innings.

Texas nipped Chicago 9-8, New York routed California 9-3, Boston edged Seattle 3-2, Minnesota trimmed Kansas City 9-4 and Cleveland took a doubleheader from Milwaukee 9-2 and 7-4 in American League action.

Cubs 5, Reds 2

The Cubs benefited from rookie Mario Soto's wildness and the ineffectiveness of reliever Dale Murray to score five runs in the eighth inning and defeat the Reds. Soto was coasting along with a 1-0 lead when he walked four batters in the eighth, including three in a row, to force home two runs. Murray came in and was greeted by a run-scoring single by Manny Trillo and a two-run hit by George Mitterwald. George Foster hit his 35th homer for the Reds. The triumph boosted the Cubs lead in the NL East to two games over Philadelphia.

Expos 10, Giants 2

Steve Rogers, aided by an eight-run seventh inning, tossed a four-hitter to gain his 12th victory in helping the Expos snap a four-game losing streak. Andre Dawson's two-run triple and a two-run homer by Larry Parrish were the big hits of the seventh inning uprising. Ellis Valentine drove in three runs for the Expos with a pair of singles. Randy Elliott had a pinch-hit homer for the Giants.

Cardinals 6, Braves 4

The Cardinals remained only 4 ½ games behind the Cubs by scoring three runs in the ninth inning to defeat the Braves. Pinch hitter Dave Rader's two-run single capped the Cardinals' ninth-inning rally which was made possible when Braves' shortstop Darrel Chaney dropped a throw at second base on Keith Hernandez' sacrifice bunt attempt. Jeff Burroughs and Rowland Office homered for Atlanta.

Padres 4, Phillies 2

Dave Kingman's two-run homer in the third inning and the clutch relief pitching of Rollie Fingers enabled the Padres to defeat the Phillies. Fingers took over from winner Bob Owchinko with two men on the eigh h and retired three batters in a row to earn his 23rd save.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

Biography

Famous Living Sports Heroes

'Great all year,' says Tom Lasorda

T AUG 26 1977 Community Affairs File

PITTSBURGH (UPI) — Los Angeles Manager Tom Lasorda had nothing but praise for southpaw Tommy John Wednesday night.

John gave up 11 hits to the Pittsburgh Pirates but kept them at bay and eventually gained credit for a 2-1 victory when Reggie Smith singled with two out in the 10th inning to drive in Lee Lacy.

"Tommy has pitched super for us all year," said Lasorda. "Anytime you hold this club (Pirates) to one run over nine innings, you've done a super job. It was an important win for us because it hasn't been a good road trip."

The Dodgers had won only one of five previous road games and were struggling at the plate.

John picked up his 15th victory against five losses with relief help from Mike Garman.

The game featured fine defensive plays on both sides. The Pirates threw out two runners at the plate and the Dodgers one. The play at the plate for the Dodgers may prove costly to them.

Catcher Steve Yeager had the wind knocked out of him in the eighth inning when Dave Parker bowled him over in trying to score from second base on a hit to right by Al Oliver and may be out for a few days. Yeager took Smith's throw, tagged Parker and then collapsed.

Yeager was helped from the field and Johnny Oates replaced him. Ironically, Parker bowled into Oates last year in the opening game of the season while Oates was with the Philadelphia Phillies and knocked him out of action for most of the year.

Lasorda said he could see the collision with Parker and Yeager coming and feared the worst.

"With Parker's speed, Yeager had a better chance against a (expletive deleted) pickup truck," said Lasorda.

In reference to Parker, Yeager said, "I saw him coming and I knew I had him dead, but all I saw were stars when he hit me. I'll probably miss a few games, but hopefully not many."

Yeager said the injury appeared confined to his right arm. He was ion for most of the year.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

Ts OCT 9 1977

John hurls Dodgers to pennant

Community Affairs File

By RALPH BERNSTEIN

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Tommy John's seven-hit pitching and Dusty Baker's two-run, second-inning home run triggered Los Angeles to a 4-1 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies to give the Dodgers the National League pennant Saturday night under what could have been the worst weather conditions in the history of major league baseball.

The Dodgers, West Division champions by 10 games, eliminated the Phillies the hard way, splitting the first two games at home but then whipping the East champs two straight in their own stadium for a 3-1 playoff triumph.

It was a shame that the weather made a travesty of major league baseball on a night when the Dodgers splashed their way into next week's World Series against the American League winner — either New York or Kansas

Despite a forecast of rain throughout the night, National League President Charles Feeney sat under an umbrella and watched the multi-million dollar talent on both teams risk injury, and a record crowd of 64,924 risk pneumonia.

It was Feeney's decision to start the game, which began 17 minutes late after more than an hour of steady drizzle. The rain could be seen splashing off puddles in front of the Phillies' dugout. But the nationally televised show went on, even though the National Weather Service Bureau predicted clear weather for Sunday and Monday.

Meanwhile, back in the ballgame, the Dodgers took a 2-0 lead against Philadelphia's 23-game winner Steve Carlton, who failed to finish for the second time in the series.

Baker, who hit a grand slam off Carlton in Game One in Los Angeles, socked an 0-2 pitch into the left field seats in the second inning with Ron Cey aboard on a walk.

Baker turned out to be the offensive hero of the series for the Dodgers, collecting five hits in 14 at-bats, hitting two homers and driving in eight runs to break Henry Aaron's 1969 playoff record of seven RBI.

The Phillies blew a big opportunity to rout John, the Dodgers' 20-game winner, who wound up tossing his first victory in the playoffs. John was knocked out in the first game.

Richie Hebner opened the Phillies second off John with a single to right and Garry Maddox grounded one into center to set up runners at first and second with none out. Ted Sizemore then tapped a pitch to the left side that John fielded, but when he wheeled to throw to second no one was covering. Sizemore was safe with a single, loading the bases.

That brought up Carlton, 2-for-2 in the series and a .268 hitter during the regular season. He worked John to a 3-2 count and then struck out to end the inning.

After the Phillies took the field in the third, home plate umpire Bruce Froemming attempted to halt play.

But the other five umpires quickly converged on Froemming and they huddled along the third base line. Finally, they went over to consult with Feeney, sitting behind the Phillies dugout, and a decision was made to continue play.

The Phillies sliced the Dodgers' lead to 2-1 in the fourth, when Greg Luzinski opened with a single to right and Hebner followed with a double into the right field corner, sending Luzinski to third. The water on the artificial surface splashed in the wake of the baseunners.

Luzinski scored on a groundout by Maddox. Sizemore walked, but Carlton again struck out to end the inning.

The Dodgers put it away in the fifth as the troublesome Baker walked. With one out, Steve Yeager singled Baker to second. John bunted foul on a third strike for a strikeout, but Carlton threw a wild pitch with the slippery baseball, Baker scoring all the way from second and Yeager advancing to third.

The Dodgers got an assist from the soaking-wet turf on the next play when Bill Russell dropped a suicide squeeze bunt toward third. Yeager scored as Carlton slipped off the mound trying to field the ball.

In the bottom of the fifth, the rain turned into a downpour, but the umpires obviously were stuck with a game that should never have started.

They had the ground crew come out and spread sand on the pitcher's mound, home plate and the first and third base areas. At the sight of the sand, some of the sopping-wet fans started to toss a beach ball around in the stands. Empty seats began to appear as some of the crowd gave up the pneunomia watch.

LOS ANGELES	ab	r	h	bi	PHILADELPHIA	ab	r	h	bi
Lopes 2b	3	0	0	0	McBride rf	5	0	0	0
Russell ss	4	0	1	1	Bowa ss	4	0	0	0
Smith rf	3	0	1	0	Schmidt 3b	3	0	0	0
Cey 3b	2	1	0	0	Luzinski lf	4	1	1	0
Garvey 1b	2	0	0	0	Hebner 1b	4	0	2	0
Baker lf	3	2	1	2	Maddox cf	3	0	2	1
Burke cf	4	0	0	0	McCarver c	2	0	0	0
Yeager c	4	1	1	0	Reed p	0	0	0	0
John p	4	0	1	0	Brown ph	1	0	0	0
					McGraw p	0	0	0	0
					Martin ph	1	0	0	0
					Garber p	0	0	0	0
					Sizemore 2b	3	0	1	0
					Carlton p	2	0	0	0
					Boone c	2	0	1	0
Totals	29	4	5	3	Totals	34	1	7	1

Los Angeles 020 020 000— 4
Philadelphia 000 100 000— 1

DP—Philadelphia 2. LOB—Los Angeles 6, Philadelphia 9. 2B—Hebner. HR— Baker. SB—Smith. S—Garvey.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
John (W)	9	7	1	1	2	8
Carlton (L)	5	4	4	4	5	3
Reed	1	0	0	0	0	1
McGraw	2	1	0	0	2	3
Garber	1	0	0	0	0	1

Carlton pitched to 1 batter in 6th.
HBP—by John (Maddox). WP—Carlton. T—2:39 A—64,924

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File

John, Tommy

Dodgers prepare for East

Big Tommy John

Ts OCT 1 1978

By TOM RECK
Sports Editor

CINCINNATI—Though they didn't know their opponent at the time, the Los Angeles Dodgers in general and Tommy John in particular were preparing for the National League playoffs—or championship series if you will—when they made their final stop here against the Reds this week.

LA will be playing for the NL title for the third time in five years and have replaced the Reds as the top team in the West Division. They've done it with good pitching and, ironically, that is causing Manager Tommy Lasorda a bit of a problem.

"They're all starters," the effervescent boss of the West champs said after LA lost to Cincy 5-3 Wednesday night. Don Sutton worked six innings in that one and left with a 3-0 lead but Charlie Hough couldn't hold it and the Reds prevailed.

"Sutton is preparing himself for the playoffs and Hough neededwork," Lasorda commented. "I have to make sure all my pitchers have get work before the playoffs start," he added.

Obviously, with only a few games left before the series is slated to begin Wednesday in the East champ's ball park, not all the Dodger pitchers will have the work they feel they need. In the case of TJ, the former Gerstmeyer athlete is coming back from an injury and Lasorda said he wants to make sure the man is ready to pitch again.

TJ worked three innings Tuesday after the Reds had gotten to Rick Rhoden en route to a victory. He allowed two hits, struck out three and walked none in his stint. "I felt good," John said Wednesday. He is scheduled to work some more Sunday in the season finale at San Diego.

The Dodger lefthander was out 17 days after tearing a muscle in his calf at the point where it is attached to the Achilles tendon. He did it while fielding a ball against Atlanta, having a 2-0 lead at the time.

He said Lasorda has told him if he's able to go, he'll be pitching in the playoffs.

Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Lasorda says he's certain only that "Happy" Hooton, beaten by San Diego Friday night, will pitch the first game in the playoffs Wednesday. He also figures Sutton will open the action on Los Angeles Friday, meaning he must decide whether Bob Welch or TJ, or someone else, works the second game or the fourth game.

The final games of the season, he indicated, would help in his decision.

TJ again has played his role in LA's drive to another division title. He compiled a 16-10 mark before being hurt with a 3.38 ERA, fourth best among the starters. He started 29 games and had seven route-going efforts with 191 innings to his credit, allowing 209 hits, 80 runs—71 earned—and walking 66 with 93 strikeouts.

He feels he could have had a second 20-win season had he not been hurt. "I figured on starts against Atlanta, Houston, San Diego and two against Cincy," TJ noted. He would have needed to win four of the five and was on his way to one win when he was hurt.

Against San Diego, John was 2-2 this year, dropping two one-run games. "I've pitched well against them but that's a credit to them too. Their man has pitched well too," he said.

He has also pitched well enough in Wrigley Field but has yet to win a game there in his seven years with the Dodgers. "It's one of those things," he said.

With Pittsburgh and Philadelphia still both in contention going into the final weekend, TJ said he didn't think it made much difference whether the Dodgers played the Phils or Pirates. "We've had pretty good success with both," he said.

He did think the East winner could possibly have a slight advantage by going down to the wire in gaining a title. "When you clinch early like we did, guys are out of the lineup and you don't go with your regular lineup. You go with your regular pitchers, the long and short mean, when you're battling to win," he said..

Lasorda said he didn't know whether it was good or bad to have it wrapped up early. "I have no idea. Nobody yet has been able to tell if it makes a difference to go to the final day or to win it early," the Dodger manager commented.

Whatever, the Dodgers will be ready to play Wednesday in Pennsylvania and TJ, hopefully, will be among the starters.

SIDELINERS—Sally John was in the stands for the Dodger series and said she'll see the playoffs. She's expecting the third John child in December. "Every time the Dodgers have made the playoffs, I've been pregnant," she said.

Their other children stayed with her parents while she made the final road trip with TJ. Tamara was born in 1974, when TJ underwent his now famous surgery, and young TJ just turned one year of age.

Right now, Tommy is a free agent and he's not exactly optimistic about signing with the Dodgers. "It's pretty hard to negotiate when the other party won't talk to you," he said, noting it's been more than six weeks when Dodger officials talked to his agent about the contract.

Money is not a problem, it's the length of the contract. "If they had offered me the same contract after the World Series last year that they offered me this year, I imagine I would have signed," he said.

It appears TJ constantly must prove his worth to the ball club. In 1974, of course, he won 13 games before his arm went bad on him and that was early in the year. Last year, he won his 20 in the Dodger drive to the pennant, in addition to winning the playoff clincher, and his 16 wins this year certainly played a part in victory for LA.

At the same time, Sally said the injury he incurred earlier this month could have kept other players sidelined longer. "He just keeps amazing the Dodgers," she said. She likes California.

Carl Erskine, who won his share of games when the Dodgers were in Brooklyn, was in the LA clubhouse Wednesday, making the trip down from Anderson to see his favorite ball club in action. He's among the many sports persons who take an active role in Special Olympics and has been at Indiana State several times for events connected with the program.

T. J. HOPEFUL OF PLAYOFF PITCHING

John, Tommy

TOMMY JOHN

T FEB 5 1982 T FEB 5 1982

Dodgers showing interest in John

Community Affairs File T FEB 5 1982

By JIMMY CLAUS
Tribune Sports Editor

Tommy John Sr. was asked this week if son Tommy and daughter-in-law Sally and their four children (three boys, one girl) would be coming to Terre Haute before the Yankees open spring training.

The senior John doubted it, saying Tommy had many engagements. He was recently given the Lou Gehrig Award at a banquet in New York City.

The Thurman Munson Award will be presented the Yankee pitcher soon. Tommy recently spoke in Minneapolis, Minn.

Some fans recall seeing Tommy on television during Robert Schuller's televised church services from Anahiem, Calif.

Tommy expressed his gratefulness for Travis' full recovery after falling from a third-floor window.

The senior John disclosed that Reggie Jackson saw Travis just about every day when he was hospitalized, not just making a quick visit either but spending many hours at his bedside.

"Travis loves Reggie," said the grandfather. "They are pals."

The Yanks will have some new coaches this season, Clyde King leaving the playing field with Jerry Walker taking charge of the pitchers. Jeff Torborg has also joined the coaching ranks.

"Walker and Tommy played together with the White Sox," recalled Tommy Sr.

Incidentally, if the Yanks no longer want John, the Dodgers have expressed interest in him. Tommy might become a free agent and has filed a grievance against the Yankees.

The veteran southpaw finished with a 9-7 won and lost record ... a 2.62 earned run average. Tommy went the route in seven of his nine victories.

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

John, Tommy

Community Affairs File

T AUG 3 1982

Tommy John may leave free agent Yanks as

Community Affairs File

Sports

By MURRAY CHASS
c. 1982 N.Y. Times News Service

NEW YORK — Tommy John, who has so far met with no success in his request to be traded, may soon be able to leave the team as a free agent.

John, whose relationship with the Yankee hierarchy has deteriorated rapidly in the last few days, could sever his relationship with the club in a breach-of-contract case. He has filed a default notice with the Yankees over their failure to give him a $200,000 loan called for in his contract, and the club has not remedied the default.

Under terms of the uniform player contract, the Yankees have 10 days from receipt of the default notice to remedy any breach. George Steinbrenner, the Yankees' principal owner, said the team received the notice July 23, which means the 10-day period expired Monday.

Steinbrenner said the Yankees responded Monday with a letter, but he declined to discuss the club's reply specifically. "We've got serious problems with the representations he made to us," the owner said. "If he can satisfy us about those representations, we stand ready to honor our contract with him."

The $200,000 loan, part of the two-year contract John signed with the Yankees last February, involves the Johns' house in Franklin Lakes, N.J. The provision stipulates that when the Johns placed the house "on the market," they were to notify the Yankees. Then, within two weeks, they were to get the loan, at 10 percent interest.

The idea was that they would be able to buy another house even if they hadn't been able to sell the first one.

John, who has been looking for a house more suitable for his family, notified the Yankees on June 28 that he had placed the house on the market. However, according to Bob Cohen, John's lawyer, when the pitcher asked for the loan, he was told that the Yankees "can't afford it right now."

When Steinbrenner was asked Monday about the possibility of John's becoming a free agent, he said, "Do you think I would stand in his way?"

John's contract calls for a salary of $805,000 this season and $700,000 next season, as well as bonus provisions. If he became a free agent, he would forgo the $700,000 salary for next year.

By pursuing the default procedure, John does not automatically become a free agent. But if the Yankees have not remedied what he sees as a breach — and there seemed little chance that the letter Steinbrenner referred to would be considered a remedy — John can notify the team that he is terminating his contract.

The Yankees could then challenge that termination with a grievance, or they could refuse to recognize the termination, which would prompt John and the Major League Baseball Players Association to file a grievance. In either case, the dispute would be heard by baseball's impartial arbitrator, Raymond Goetz.

"We've discussed our next step," Cohen said. "We know our options, but we haven't decided what our next step is. If it were automatic, it would make our decision much easier."

Cohen said he was concerned about a prolonged grievance procedure that could prevent John from joining another team for a month or so. However, the basic agreement between the club owners and the players association provides for an expedited hearing in a case involving charges of contract breach.

A source familiar with the dispute said the "representations" Steinbrenner referred to stemmed from John's notification that he had placed his house on the market. The Yankees have apparently checked and have been unable to find anywhere that the house has been listed for sale.

John was not at home to comment on that part of the dispute, but if the Yankees are questioning his veracity, it could only serve as another factor in his bad feeling toward them and his desire to play elsewhere.

Cohen said the pitcher's acrimonious exchange with Bill Bergesch, the Yankees' vice president for baseball operations, on Saturday night in Texas had actually had no effect on John's thinking.

"Tommy already had his mind made up," Cohen said.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

"He's been unhappy with the team for a variety of reasons. Bergesch only buttressed his opinion."

John and Bergsech clashed over what the pitcher felt was Bergesch's bringing John's 3-year-old son, Travis, into the dispute. Bergsech had said that John should be more appreciative of what the Yankees had done for him, and the pitcher, having heard of the remark, took it as a reference to the help the team provided when Travis was badly injured in a fall last year.

Steinbrenner said Monday that John "is the one who brought Travis into the matter."

"He can make all the excuses he wants," the owner said. "He can try to blame me for his shortcomings. That doesn't bother me. But when he brings in children and young people, that does bother me. I probably have done more for children and young people than Tommy John will do in 10 lifetimes."

Steinbrenner also said the Yankees would not retain John if he did not want to play for them any longer. John, whose contract has a no-trade clause, has told the Yankees that he would approve a trade to California, Kansas City, Boston or Milwaukee.

"We're trying with some of the teams," Steinbrenner said. "We aren't meeting with much success."

The owner said the club had given Cohen permission to talk to other teams about a possible trade. "We're not trying to stand in Tommy's way," Steinbrenner said.

John asked last week to be traded after he was had been told that he was being put in the bullpen.

Biog - J
Community Affairs File
SEP 2 1982

Tommy John has shot at winning 300

DETROIT (AP) — Tommy John says he has a new lease on life, and maybe with a little luck, a shot at winning 300 games before finishing his career.

The 39-year-old native of Terre Haute left behind the New York Yankee's pressure cooker and put on a California Angels uniform for the first time Wednesday, but didn't see any action in his new team's 5-3 loss to Detroit.

Prior to the contest, the veteran left-handed pitcher called the trade from New York to the title-contending Angels "a new chapter in my life."

Closing the New York chapter — which he wanted strongly to do — still was not without a tinge of sadness.

"I think any time you spend 3½ years on one club, as I did with the Yankees, you develop some friendships," said John as he worked out at Tiger Stadium. "I'm going to miss a lot of things about playing for the Yankees, but it's no secret that there are other things I'm not going to miss at all."

The soft-spoken John, the winningest pitcher in the American League the past three years, made it clear he's glad to be out of the employ of Yankees' owner George Steinbrenner, with whom he feuded more and more openly the past few weeks.

"George is George," John said, choosing his words carefully. "He's a very impulsive person. I think the difference between George and I kept getting wider and wider. It's too bad, but that's life.

"I felt I was being stifled in New York. I wanted a chance to pitch more. I think I still have an outside chance at winning 300 games."

John, who owns a 233-169 lifetime record, is 10-10 this season with a 3.66 earned run average. He is 52-36 over the past three seasons, but Steinbrenner felt his future was in the bullpen, rather than as a starter.

Things began to go sour for John this spring when he and Steinbrenner had trouble agreeing on terms of a new contract.

After the owner ordered John to the bullpen, the issue came to a head a month ago when John asked to be traded from the Yankees, who are floundering in the AL East.

"The Yankees are a contending team if we are allowed to play baseball," John said. "Pressure is fun if it's baseball pressure. Unfortunately, that's not the case there.

"They say that playing for the Yankees is the toughest job in baseball, but how much can you take? Baseball still is supposed to be fun."

John, who probably will pitch the first game in Milwaukee Friday night, said it would take a few days to get a feel for the harmony — or lack of it — on the California club, but noted that the presence of Reggie Jackson obviously was important.

John played seven seasons with Los Angeles prior to signing as a free agent with the Yankees. He also pitched for the Cleveland Indians in 1963 and 1964 and for the Chicago White Sox from 1965 to 1971.

John spent three full seasons with the Yankees after leaving the Dodgers in 1978.

TOMMY HEADS WEST — Pitcher Tommy John, right, heads out to the bullpen in Tiger Stadium Wednesday evening with coach Tom Morgan prior to the California Angels' game with the Detroit Tigers. John, a native of Terre Haute, was acquired Tuesday from the New York Yankees. AP

John, Tommy
Vigo County Public Library
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Community Affairs File

John, Tommy

Community Affairs File

Biography — John S SEP 1 1982

Tommy Sr. 'Tickled To Death'

By BOB GREENEY
Staff Sports Writer

"I'm tickled to death. He wanted to be traded. He didn't like it in New York. They were giving him a rough time. He and Steinbrenner have kind of been at each other's throats."

See story on page 10

Tommy John Sr. was somewhat elated Tuesday after he learned his son Tommy Jr. was traded from the fourth-place New York Yankees of the American League East Division to the pennant-contending California Angels of the West Division.

John was traded for three players to be named later. The trade occurred before midnight Tuesday so he will be eligible to pitch in the playoffs if the Angels win their division.

John's wife Sally called his parents in Terre Haute to inform them. Tommy Sr. disclosed that his son now has a three-year contract with California — as opposed to the one year remaining on his New York pact.

Tommy Sr. said, "Some people don't understand the reason Tommy wanted out. He (Steinbrenner) wanted to knock him out of his bonus. They had a deal — if he had 28 starts and 185 innings he would get a $35,000 bonus."

The elder John feels strongly that Steinbrenner calls all the shots. "He has that walkie-talkie and he runs the show. I saw it when they put the camera on him in the World Series. They talked about Charlie Finley but this guy always calls the dugout.

"He denies that he took Tommy out in the World Series (fourth inning of final game). We heard from a pretty good source that he did. The Dodger players were tickled to death when they saw him go, they were all grounding out."

Tommy Sr. said that his son and his wife Sally were delighted to go back out west as they only lived 10 minutes from Anaheim Stadium when he pitched for Los Angeles.

He'll be reunited with his friend and former teammate Reggie Jackson. "Reggie had been calling him quite a bit, I'm sure he egged it (the trade) on. Most people don't know this but when little Travis fell out the window, Reggie was in the hospital every day for hours and hours. They have quite a friendship."

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Tommy John Suffered

Distinguished Living Texas Hoosiers

His Wife, Sally, Recalls

Biography Community Affairs File

Physical, Emotional Pain

Ts JUN 20 1976

By LYNDA FILLMORE
Associated Press Writer

LOSS ANGELES (AP) — "He'd sit down to meals and stare at his plate, knowing he couldn't even feed himself.

"He'd catch me watching him and would crack a joke and try to cheer me up.

"No matter how much physical pain or emotional agony he suffered, he wanted to spare me from suffering, too. He couldn't of course, but oh, how he tried."

Her name was Sally Simmons and she was a 19-year-old cheerleader at Indiana State University when she met the major league pitcher she was to marry. Their romance was straight out of a story book and their life together could hardly have been any happier.

Sally was six months pregnant with their first child and Tommy John was pitching better than he ever had.

Then came disaster: Tommy ruptured a ligament in his left elbow and most baseball observers said the Los Angeles Dodgers' southpaw would never pitch again.

Sally John suffered great torment watching her husband struggle to regain use of the crippled arm, then earn back his spot in the Dodgers' starting rotation.

She says the birth of the couple's daughter and their faith in God pulled them through two years of uncertainty.

The surgery that John underwent was so radical that even his doctors did not know what to expect.

"Essentially," said Dr. Frank Jobe, who performed the operation in September, 1974, "we took a piece of ligament from the right arm and replaced in in the left, then asked it to come alive again and perform. It was a very questionable procedure that had never been tried before but it was the only thing we could come up with that left open even a remote possibility of Tommy's return to baseball.

"I told Sally after the operation that on a scale of one to ten, Tommy's chances of ever pitching again were less than one."

For weeks following surgery, John had to be fed, dressed and bathed. just like his infant daughter who, ironically was born the day after her father's operation.

Sally, 27, says that following surgery, her husband's arms were taped to his sides and "he looked just like a gorilla."

Later, when the straps were removed and Tommy's left arm put in a cast, his wife says she watched in horror as John struggled to cut a piece of meat.

"I'd have to find excuses to race into the bedroom so Tommy wouldn't see how much it upset me," she said.

John, with Sally's help, would put on a pair of bathing trunks and soak in the bathtub as his mother-in-law poured water over his back and scrubbed him. Then he's sit in the living room of the couple's new home, squeezing a rubber ball for hours trying to regain trength in the shriveled arm.

"It was awful," recalled Mrs. John. "I'd watch him gripping that little rubber ball and I'd go weak. It was all I could do to keep from breaking down in front of him. But I knew any displays of self-pity sure wouldn't help him."

The Dodgers and doctors consulted several months before giving Jobe the go-ahead on surgery. Sally recalls that Jobe pulled her aside after the operation and told her she was going to need a lot of strength in the coming months. She would have to provide a great deal of emotional support for her husband because the doctor thought Tommy's baseball days were over.

"I ran to a phone booth and sobbed," Sally said. "Then I called his parents in Indiana and we cried together for what seemed hours."

Later, she dried the tears, pasted on a phony smile and met John as he came out of anasthesia. Before the couple had too much time to become enmeshed in grief "God's little miracle arrived."

Due to the stress, Sally delivered early. John pleaded to be present for the birth and Jobe, fearing that refusal would cause the pitcher to sink into depression, consented. Tommy was at his wife's side, in another hospital across Los Angeles, when Tamara Maria John was born Sept. 27, 1974.

"When I came in for delivery," Sally said, "Tommy looked so bad they offered him the wheelchair instead of me."

Mrs. John said the new baby provided a new outlook on life.

"Tammy kept Tommy going. The first day home he looked at her and said 'Sally, if I never pitch again I know now what life's all about.'

"God couldn't have timed that baby's arrival more perfectly. I believe that."

Before Comeback

NOV 21 1973 NOV 21 1973

Proclaim Tommy John Day

Community Affairs File

"Tommy John Day" was officially proclaimed Tuesday at City Hall by Mayor Bill Brighton.

The former Gerstmeyer High School athlete — who is concluding his 10th season in the major leagues, presently pitching for the Los Angeles Dodgers — will be honored with festivities in the city Sunday.

Tickets are now being sold for a 12:30 p.m. luncheon at The Holiday Inn at Paige's Music Store, Royal Inn, TH Chrysler-Plymouth, North High School and Phil & Bill's. T. J.'s coaches and former teammates will be invited to attend.

Following that luncheon, various activities are planned at a free program at the Indiana State Arena, beginning at 3 p.m. All area youth baseball players are invited to attend, along with their parents.

At this program, other former pro baseball players will be invited and presentations will be made to John.

At the same time, the Dodger lefty and others will take part in an instructional clinic and question-answer session for the players, including those from high school, Little League, Connie Mack, Babe Ruth, junior baseball ranks and American Legion teams.

Various items will be given to those players attending the program and free refreshments will be served.

Mayor Brighton's proclamation, denoting Sunday as Tommy John Recognition Day is as follows:

Whereas, Tommy John is a former resident of Terre Haute, Indiana, and;

Whereas, he was an outstanding athlete at Gerstmeyer High School and;

Whereas, he has served with distinction as a professional baseball player, presently with the Los Angeles Dodgers, and;

Whereas, he has provided a fine example for other young athletes and;

Whereas, Tommy John has completed 10 full seasons in the major leagues;

Now, therefore, I, William J. Brighton, Mayor of the City of Terre Haute, Indiana, do hereby proclaim Sunday, November 25, 1973, as Tommy John Day in Terre Haute.

Wm. J. Brighton, Mayor.

TOMMY JOHN

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

6 NOV 3 1976

T.J. Earns UPI Comeback Honor

Biography Community Affairs File Distinguished Living Terre Hauteans

Tommy John capped his comeback year with the Los Angeles Dodgers by being named comeback player of the year in the National League by United Press International Tuesday.

T. J. TAPPED—Tommy John was named comeback player of the year in the National League in voting by United Press International baseball writers Tuesday. The former Gerstmeyer athlete came back to pitch for Los Angeles this year following delicate elbow surgery on his pitching arm.

T. J. incurred severe injury to his pitching arm in July of 1974 and many said he would not hurl again in the major leagues. Doubts increased when his elbow practically was refashioned in surgery later that year.

He spent all of 1975 on the sidelines although the former Gerstmeyer athlete made road trips with the National League West ball club and pitched batting practice. He took notes and made reports in the stands during the games.

Then, he was sent to instructional league to face major league type competition in the fall of 1975. He passed the test and the next step was to be successful in spring training with LA. With a player contract dispute casting a shadow over the 1976 season and holding up the start of spring work, T. J. awaited the start of the season.

Practice began and T. J. responded. When the season had ended and Los Angeles had finished second only to the world champion Cincinnati Reds in the NL West totals, T. J. had fashioned a 10-10 mark and had a 3.09 earned-run average.

He appeared in 31 games, meaning he had 11 no decisions in games which Dodgers were victors in most cases. He had six complete games and worked 207 innings with two shutouts. As usual, his work was marked by good control.

In the tabulation, John had 10 of the 26 votes cast by UPI correspondents in major league cities. Joe Torre of the New York Mets tallied five, Bill Buckner of the Dodgers and Jerry Koosman of the Mets two each, Steve Carlton, Garry Maddox, Jim Lonborg, Dick Allen and Jay Johnstone of the Philadelphia Phillies, Bill Russell of the Dodgers and Dave Concepcion of Cincy one each.

A native of Terre Haute, John started the 1976 season with a 124-106 lifetime mark. He worked for Cleveland and the Chicago White Sox before moving to Los Angeles and the National League in 1971.

In the UPI story, John repeated what he had said last winter: "My goal in the spring was to be the Dodgers' number five starter. It seems like a modest goal now but back then I wasn't sure it could be done."

He further gives credit to wife Sally and Dodger Director of Scouting Ben Wade with building his confidence and aiding his comeback.

Two of his biggest supporters, of course, were Mr. and Mrs. Tom John Sr. of Terre Haute, his parents.

Community Affairs File
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library

John, Tommy

TJ begins 23rd season tonight

Biography — Ts APR 9 1985

The California Angels trimmed their roster to the 25-man limit, optioning pitcher Rafael Lugo to their Edmonton affiliate and not tendering contracts to pitcher Craig Swan outfielder Rufino Linares, as they prepare for their season opener against Minnesota tonight.

For Tommy John of the Angels, it will be the start of another season in the major leagues.

After a 7-13 campaign in 1984, his status with the club had been uncertain this spring and the Angels had some discussions with other clubs about trading him.

But John had a solid exhibition season, yielding just one run in three appearances spanning 15 innings.

The Terre Haute native will be entering his 23rd season in the major leagues. John has been quoted recently as saying that he would like to pitch until he is 45 years old.

John graduated from Gerstmeyer High School and was signed by the Cleveland Indians in 1961. He received a reported $40,000 bonus from Cleveland.

He began his major league career with the Indians in 1963 and also pitched for them in 1964.

In the winter of 1965 John, outfielder Tommy Agee and catcher John Romano were traded to the Chicago White Sox for outfielder Rocky Colavito and catcher Camilo Carreon.

He pitched with the White Sox for seven years before being traded with infielder Steve Huntz to the Los Angeles Dodgers for Richie Allen in December of 1971.

John had six fine seasons for the Dodgers, including his first 20-win season in 1977 when he had a 20-7 record. He missed the entire 1975 season because of an elbow injury but in 1976 he bounced back with a 10-10 season and was named the National League Comeback Player of the Year by *The Sporting News*.

During his six years in Los Angeles he had an overall record of 87-42.

After going 17-10 with the pennant-winning Dodgers in 1978, in the off-season as a free agent he signed with the defending world champion New York Yankees.

During his first year (1979) with the Yankees he went 21-9 and the following year he was 22-9.

The next year in New York he went 9-8 although he was on the disabled list from June 5 to Aug. 1.

He started out with the Yankees in 1982 but on Aug. 31 the California Angels, moving into the pennant stretch, acquired him for a player to be named later. That player turned out to be Dennis Rasmussen.

The Angels did win their division so John has pitched for three teams in the playoffs. John pitched in the World Series for both the Dodgers and the Yankees but never on the winning team.

TERRE HAUTE'S TOMMY JOHN
Veteran California pitcher

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

HISTORIAN AND SUBJECT—Tommy John (right), one of the members of Los Angeles' five-man pitching rotation, is congratulated on his fine 16-7 season by local historian Paul Frisz. John, a native of Terre Haute, was in the city yesterday as local personages honored him with a "day." The Dodgers' player was honored with a luncheon and party and gave a clinic at the Indiana State Arena. Strausburg Photo.

Community Affairs File

Biography

City Honors Tommy John For His Baseball Exploits

Distinguished Terre Haute Citizens

Tommy John Day was celebrated in the city yesterday, with the Los Angeles Dodgers hurler being hosted to a dinner and party and giving a baseball clinic for fans during the day-long festivities.

John recently completed his 10th year in the major leagues, where he played for Chicago and Cleveland of the American League before moving to Los Angeles, and compiled a 16-7 log for the Western Division contenders this season. He had a 3.10 ERA for the Dodgers this year.

Festivities began at 12:30 p.m. Sunday with a meal at the Holiday Inn, continued at 3 p.m. when John spoke to an assembly of youngsters and their parents at the ISU Arena, and concluded with a party at the Royal Inn.

"It's a great honor," the Dodgers pitcher said often during his day. "I've always thought it would be nice to be honored in this way, but I never expected it to happen to me."

But through the initial efforts of Bob McClelland and a committee headed by Ron Peters, the day was planned — and nearly surprised the local athlete.

Frisz mentionad Hall of Famers Max Carey and Mordecai Brown from the area, and noted that John has more victories now (111) than Brown had at a similar age.

Forbes read telegrams and messages from people unable to attend the event, including Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley, Dodgers general manager Al Campanis, former major leaguer Carl Erskine and U.S. Rep. John Myers.

A telegram from Dodgers manager Walter Alston was read at the clinic at the Arena, and Eddie Stanky, one of John's managers with the Chicago White Sox, was unable to attend because of duties at the University of South Alabama, where he is baseball coach.

Phone messages were acknowledged from former Dodger Pee Wee Reese, former White Sox pitcher Gary Peters, Dodgers Bill Russell and Jim Brewer and St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Famer Stan Musial.

McClelland presented John with a set of golf clubs, and his wife, the former Sally Simmons of Plainfield, was given gifts by McClelland and by some of her former teachers from Plainfield.

At the clinic John was welcomed by Mayor William Brighton and presented with an honorary lifetime membership in Indiana State University's Alumni I-Men's Club by acting athletic director Jerry Huntsman.

He was also notified that a travelling trophy will be presented in his name each year to the local Babe Ruth League championship team (John, a member of the 1955 Terre Haute Babe Ruth League world cham-

Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

pions, is the first graduate of that local program to reach the majors) and was presented a placque by Wayne Newton American Legion coaches.

Presentations made at the party Sunday night included a gift from the Terre Haute Area Chamber of Commerce and a recording of his parents and some of his former coaches made by Columbia Records.

He also spoke nearly an hour to the youngsters at the ISU Arena, giving numerous tips on pitching and some on batting, signing autographs for everyone in sight and even revealing some of the secrets of the "greaseball" to a young fan. (John does not throw the illegal pitch.)

But most of all Tommy John returned home to renew old acquaintances and see old friends.

McClelland referred to John as "a walking Chamber of Commerce" for Terre Haute, and Brighton called him "an emissary of good will" for the city in his travels throughout the country.

John repeatedly urged Terre

Continued On Page 10, Col. 4.

Tommy John

Continued From Page 8.

Haute fans to go to Cincinnati, St. Louis or Chicago to watch the Dodgers and to say hello, and promised them an exciting Dodgers team to watch.

And as the Dodgers pitcher relaxed with old friends, laughed as some of his wife's driving exploits were recounted and chatted with his many fans, he proved that 10 years in the major leagues haven't changed him—he's still the down-to-earth, high-class individual he's always been.

Members of the Tommy John Day Committee, in addition to Peters and McClelland, were Tony Colocia, Jerry Titus, John Wofflie, Charles Garrison, John Avalis, Jerry Williams, Pete Piazza, Paul Denehie and Tom Reck.

John, Tommy

Terre Haute Welcomes Its Tommy John Back Home

Biography

Community Affairs File

S NOV 26 1973

By ANDY AMEY
Star Staff Writer

One of this city's favorite sons returned home Sunday as Terre Haute celebrated "Tommy John Day."

The Los Angeles Dodger pitcher, who completed his 10th season in the major leagues this summer, compiling a 16-7 record and a 3.10 earned run average in the process came back to his hometown for a luncheon, a free clinic for younger (and older) fans and a party.

Festivities began at 12:30 p.m. Sunday with a meal at the Holiday Inn, continued at 3 p.m. when John spoke to an assembly of youngsters and their parents at the ISU Arena, and concluded with a party Sunday evening at the Royal Inn.

"It's a great honor," the Dodger pitcher said often during his day. "I've always thought it would be nice to be honored in this way, but I never expected it to happen to me."

+ + +

But through the initial efforts of Bob McClelland and a committee headed by Ron Peters, the day was planned — and nearly surprised the local athlete.

"It was supposed to be a secret," John said at the luncheon Sunday, "but I began to suspect something was going on when we began receiving so many telephone calls from Terre Haute."

Local television sportscaster Bob Forbes served as toastmaster for the luncheon. Other speakers there were Bill Welch, North High School athletic director, McClelland and local baseball historian Paul Frisz.

Frisz recounted Terre Haute's baseball history, also introducing former Dodger pitcher Harry Taylor, another Terre Haute native who started the fourth game of the 1947 World Series for Brooklyn.

Frisz mentionad Hall of Famers Max Carey and Mordecai Brown from the area, and noted that John has more victories now (111) than Brown had at a similar age.

+ + +

Forbes read telegrams and messages from people unable to

See TOMMY JOHN
On Page 20, Column 1

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

TOMMY JOHN HONORED — Los Angeles Dodger pitcher Tommy John (kneeling) is presented a set of golf clubs by Bob McClelland during "Tommy John Day" ceremonies here Sunday. Looking on are, from left, Joe Fox, who was John's 7th and 8th grade coach at Warren School; Bill Welch, his manager when Tommy pitched for the Wayne Newton American Legion baseball team, and McClelland. (Photo by Lingenfelter)

RECEIVING AND GIVING — Tommy John, center, receives a placque in photo at left from Wayne Newton American Legion Post representatives George Murphy, left, and Owen Harbour, right. In photo at right, John gives some future major leaguers some tips on pitching during a clinic at the Indiana State University Arena Sunday. (Photos by Lingenfelter)

Tommy John

Continued From Page 1

attend the event, including Dodger owner Walter O'Malley, Dodger general manager Al Campanis, former major leaguer Carl Erskine and U.S. Representative John Myers.

A telegram from Dodger manager Walter Alston was read at the clinic at the Arena, and Eddie Stanky, one of John's managers with the Chicago White Sox, was unable to attend because of duties at the University of South Alabama, where he is baseball coach.

Phone messages were acknowledged from former Dodger Pee Wee Reese, former White Sox pitcher Gary Peters, Dodgers Bill Russell and Jim Brewer and St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Famer Stan Musial.

McClelland presented John with a set of golf clubs, and his wife, the former Sally Simmons of Plainfield, was given gifts by McClelland and by some of her former teachers from Plainfield.

+ + +

At the clinic John was welcomed by Terre Haute Mayor William Brighton and presented with an honorary lifetime membership in Indiana State University's Alumni I-Men's Club by acting athletic director Jerry Huntsman.

He was also notified that a travelling trophy will be presented in his name each year to the local Babe Ruth League championship team (John, a member of the 1955 Terre Haute Babe Ruth League world champions, is the first graduate of that local program to reach the majors) and was presented a placque by Wayne Newton American Legion coaches.

Presentations made at the party Sunday night included a gift from the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce and a recording of his parents and some of his former coaches made by Columbia Records.

+ + +

He also spoke nearly an hour to the youngsters at the ISU Arena, giving numerous tips on pitching and some on batting, signing autographs for everyone in sight and even revealing some of the secrets of the "greaseball" to a young fan. (John does not throw the illegal pitch.)

But most of all Tommy John returned home to renew old acquaintances and see old friends.

McClelland referred to John as "a walking Chamber of Commerce" for Terre Haute, and Brighton called him "an emissary of good will" for the city in his travels throughout the country.

John repeatedly urged Terre Haute fans to go to Cincinnati, St. Louis or Chicago to watch the Dodgers and to say hello, and promised them an exciting Dodger team to watch.

And as the Dodger pitcher relaxed with old friends, laughed as some of his wife's driving exploits were recounted and chatted with his many fans, he proved that 10 years in the major leagues haven't changed him—he's still the down-to-earth, high-class individual he's always been.

Members of the Tommy John Day Committee, in addition to Peters and McClelland, were Tony Colocia, Jerry Titus, John Wofflie, Charles Garrison, John Avalis, Jerry Williams, Pete Piazza, Paul Denehie and The Star sports editor Tom Reck.

"It was supposed to be a secret," John said at the luncheon. "but I began to suspect something when we began receiving so many telephone calls from Terre Haute."

Local television sportscaster Bob Forbes served as toastmaster for the luncheon. Other speakers there were Bill Welch, North High School athletic director, McClelland and local baseball historian Paul Frisz.

Frisz recounted Terre Haute's baseball history, also introducing former Dodgers pitcher Harry Taylor, another Terre Haute native who started the fourth game of the 1947 World Series for Brooklyn.

IS NOV 25 1973

Tommy John Honored Today

What made Tommy John, who will be honored at 12:30 p.m. today at the Holiday Inn with a special luncheon, such a premier major league baseball pitcher?

Howard Sharpe, who coached Tommy at Gerstmeyer, commented: "I think there were several reasons for his success.

"First off, Tommy had a great desire to pitch in the majors. His dad and mother were of tremendous help to him, too, giving him encouragement.

"Having a goal—seeing himself in the big leagues—was a big factor.

"Second," said Sharpe, "Tommy was always a good listener. He accepted suggestions . . . and he was intelligent.

"Third, John gripped the baseball in an unusual way. This caused his pitch to sink quickly, something that is still bothering the top hitters in the game today."

Sharpe concluded, "I think Tommy got a bad break in a couple of cases, pitching for Cleveland and the Chicago White Sox at the wrong time.

TOMMY JOHN

ABE GIBRON

"They were punchless at the plate—they just couldn't give him any runs. This might have cost him 50 career pitching victories.

"Certainly he lost many close games early in his career which he might just have easily had won."

Bob McClelland Genuine Sportsman

Tommy John Jr. is the person being honored but recognition, too, should be given Bob McClelland.

He's been most generous for many years, giving both his time and money to extol local athletes and teams.

Coaches Bill Welch, Sharpe, Tommy's parents and baseball historian Paul Frisz will be present for the luncheon.

The public is invited and tickets ($5.00 each) will be on sale at the Holiday Inn.

After the luncheon, Tommy will give a free clinic at 3 p.m. at the ISU Arena. Youngsters of all ages are invited with free Cokes and give aways.

North Cagers Give Preview

North's Patriots basketball squad—some 28 strong—will hold a special night for season ticket holders Tuesday.

A short sophomore game is scheduled for 7 p.m. The varsity game starts around 8:15 p.m. with two-man teams. This is a preview for season ticket holders only.

Corso to Talk About Big Ten Action

Illinois football players attending the Tribune-Star All-Wabash Valley banquet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Holiday Inn are reminded of the time difference.

Lee Corso, Indiana U. coach, will be on hand early to talk with the players and coaches with the dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. Illinois time.

Speaking of Money . . .

Aristotle Onassis remarked to his wife, the former Jackie Kennedy: "You used to spend $20,000 a week, now you're only spending $10,000.

"Why not keep the difference? I'll have my office send you at the end of each month, when all the bills are in, a check for every dollar you spend under $20,000 a week."

So now Jackie is saving $10,000 a week.

Ari thought it was wise for Jackie to have a few dollars tucked away in her own name; while she was well provided for in his will—maybe $1 billion—it might take years to probate the estate.

Bears Shooting for Upset

Usually when they play the tougher teams they play better, com they upset some favored rival.

Usuall ywhen they play the tougher teams they play better.

Thus it might be a mistake, should the Minnesota Vikings, a two-touchdown favorite, underate the Bears for today's contest.

Coach Abe Gibron won't know until game time whether versatile Bobby Douglass, who passes, runs and pitches, can play quarterback, or whether he'll have to go to rookie Gary Huff, who last week in what amounted to his professional debut had four passes intercepted.

Huff would force a change in the Bears' game plan, since he can't run with the power of Douglass, scramble as well, nor presumably take the punishment.

Most important, he can't sweep behind the line to run the

(Continued On Page 50, Col. 4)

Sporting Around

(Continued From Page 45)

option plays which Douglass can work so well to break himself into the open.

Maybe Gibron's uncertainty will help the Bears since it could force the Vikings to work on two defensive plans, one against the option and another without it.

Should Huff be in the game, too, it could force the Vikings to be more aware of a pass threat.

Douglass suffered a twisted knee against Detroit Sunday and while he has said he'll be ready, Gibron hasn't been ready to say so.

John, Tommy

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File

Ramblin' Reck

S JUL 4 1973

By Tom Reck

Star Sports Editor

Tommy John had an operation to remove bone chips in his pitching arm at the end of last season, cutting the 1972 campaign short for him and casting somewhat of a cloud on chances for 1973.

At the time of the surgery, the Gerstmeyer graduate had a mark of 11-5 with the Los Angeles Dodgers, in his first year with the club, and a sparkling earned-run average of 2.89.

Had it not been for that shortened year, he might have bettered his single-season high of 14 victories, achieved twice with the Chicago White Sox.

It's 1973 now, of course, and T. J. is on a record course again. He was scheduled to start for the Dodgers Tuesday night against San Diego in LA.

Heading into that one, he had an 8-3 mark. His ERA was 3.03 and that was second only to Don Sutton among the Dodgers starters. Tommy had struck out 42 batters, walked 25 (one intentionally), given up 95 hits and allowed 40 runs (30 earned).

In his 88.2 innings of work, the lefty had been touched for five home runs.

Obviously, John has not been feeling any ill effects of his 1972 operation.

Starting Slow . . .

"I started a little slower this spring because of it," John said Sunday in Cincinnati, where he didn't see any action as the Reds took three of four games from the Dodgers. He recorded his eighth victory in Atlanta, just prior to the Red series, and had beaten the Reds the Saturday before in LA.

"The arm was a little stiff in the spring and the biggest thing was building strength back up because I didn't have the chance to throw as much. "The arm was a little weak for awhile but it's starting to feel real good now. There's no more soreness," he recalled.

John is one of five regular starters for the Dodgers, working along with Sutton, Andy Messersmith (obtained from California in return for Bill Singer), Steve Downing and Claude Osteen. The fact LA has that top-notch fivesome (the combined record is 40-20) along with ace reliefers makes one believe their current lead will stand up in the National League West.

John, for one, feels that if the Dodgers play as they are capable of playing they'll finish in front. At the same time, he says any one of three teams, Houston, San Francisco or Cincinnati, could provide the strongest challenge.

What's the difference between this year and last when the Dodgers finished bar behind the Reds in the West? "I guess we're luckier. That's baseball." John replied, noting too that the season has a long way to go.

The Reds, in the series at Cincy, took a pair Sunday with some good pitching from Fred Norman (3-1 now with the Reds) and Ross Grimsley. Tommy pointed out that the Dodgers had some good pitching of their own from Sutton and Doug Rau in defeat.

Earlier in the year, John was out of the starting rotation for two periods. He explained: "We had a lot of off days and if we'd all stayed in the rotation, it would have meant going about a week without pitching. I worked in relief five times, I think, in that period."

Terre Haute's only major leaguer at the present time has beaten Atlanta three times, San Diego, Cincy, Philadelphia, the New York Mets and St. Louis once each in winning eight times. He's lost to the Chicago Cubs, Houston and Philadelphia.

He was to make his 14th start of the year against San Diego.

While his wife, the former Sally Simmons (Indiana State graduate), wasn't with him on the current but short trip in this part of the country, Tommy said she probably would be along when the Dodgers play in St. Louis and Pittsburgh later this month.

John's parents and sister were on hand for the series in Riverfront Stadium.

Fast Ball Used . . .

John says, in beating the Reds by a 3-1 count, he used his fast ball almost exclusively. "So long as my fast ball is working, I stick with it. I start with the fast ball, go to the curve and then move them in and out," he said.

The all-around former Tech athlete commented on the type of ball being used this year. Stories have pointed out that the cover has been changed from horsehide to cowhide.

"It's a smaller ball, more slick and more soft. The seam isn't the same either. Actually, we've used all of our supply at LA and gone back to using the older ball.

"The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia did some research and found out that the newer type ball is more lively. It's harder to curve the cowhide ball," he said.

Looking at the American League West, where his old mates, the White Sox, are hooked up in a battle with four other teams at the present time, Tommy thought working pitchers with limited days of rest would take its toll.

"I think it already has, even with (Wilbur) Wood. But, at the same time, in that division, with a couple good weeks, they could be back on top with a good lead," said John.

So, while West is West and sometimes East (Chicago in the AL West), the twain could meet in the World Series—if that's the way the ball bounces—if the Dodgers and White Sox win their respective pennants.

Then, John not only would have his first opportunity to pitch in a series (he's been in one all-star game) but he would be going against his old ball club. The move of the Chisox, by the way, should not be any surprise to any one who listened to T. J. in the past.

Three years ago, he lauded the work of Chuck Tanner, then the new manager of the White Sox, and he predicted the ball club would be a contender in short order. At the time, the Pale Hose weren't exactly challenging anyone for anything.

P.S. In your list of things to know, you might note that Tommy led National League pitchers in fielding last year with an errorless season.

Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

John, Tommy

TJ shows top form in return to active list

Biography

1 s AUG 1 0 1985

NEW YORK (AP) — Tommy John of Terre Haute plans to spend next year as the pitching coach at the University of North Carolina. Maybe he can teach the kind of lesson he just gave the Kansas City Royals.

John, activated from the disabled list Friday, went out later in the night and tossed five-hit ball for 7⅔ innings as the New York Yankees handled the Royals 2-0.

"Maybe he should reconsider retiring. He has a lot more victories left in him," said Kansas City's Charlie Leibrandt, who lost despite a four-hitter.

John, back in the major leagues for the first time in two months, looked the same as he always has during his 263 big-league victories. He changed speeds, moved the ball in and out and did not hurt himself with mistakes. Classic Tommy John.

"He knows exactly what he has to do," Royals interim manager Mike Ferraro said. "Tommy is the type of pitcher you always think you're going to get to, and you never really do. I thought we were going to come up with something all game."

John was in trouble only once, in the sixth inning when an error and John's only walk put runners on first and second with two outs. Frank White lined a hard single to right, but Dave Winfield's strong throw home caught Lonnie Smith in a rundown, and he was tagged out.

"I got scared when I saw I might have to get in a rundown. Not me, a non-athlete," the 43-year-old left-hander joked.

The idea of running after the speedy Smith did not appeal to John, who had not pitched for the Yankees since June 8 because of a sprained left Achilles tendon. He spent the past month pitching for Class A Fort Lauderdale.

where he did not give up an earned run during 13⅔ innings of his rehabilitation program.

In the meantime, John announced recently that he has accepted the job of pitching coach at North Carolina for next year, a commitment he intends to honor regardless of his success the remainder of the season.

John said he felt comfortable from the start Friday night, especially after the top of the first inning when told his usually not-so-fast fastball reached 87 mph on the radar gun.

"I think the man running the radar gun was drunk," Yankees Manager Lou Piniella said with a laugh.

"I expected to pitch six or seven innings," John said. "If we had eight or 10 runs, I could've gone nine."

Piniella lifted John after a two-out single in the eighth by Willie Wilson. George Brett was coming up, and Piniella waved in reliever Dave Righetti.

"Lou asked me how I felt and I said, "If I were you, I'd bring the other guy in,'" John said.

For a moment, it appeared as though John and Piniella were arguing about the decision. John said it wasn't so.

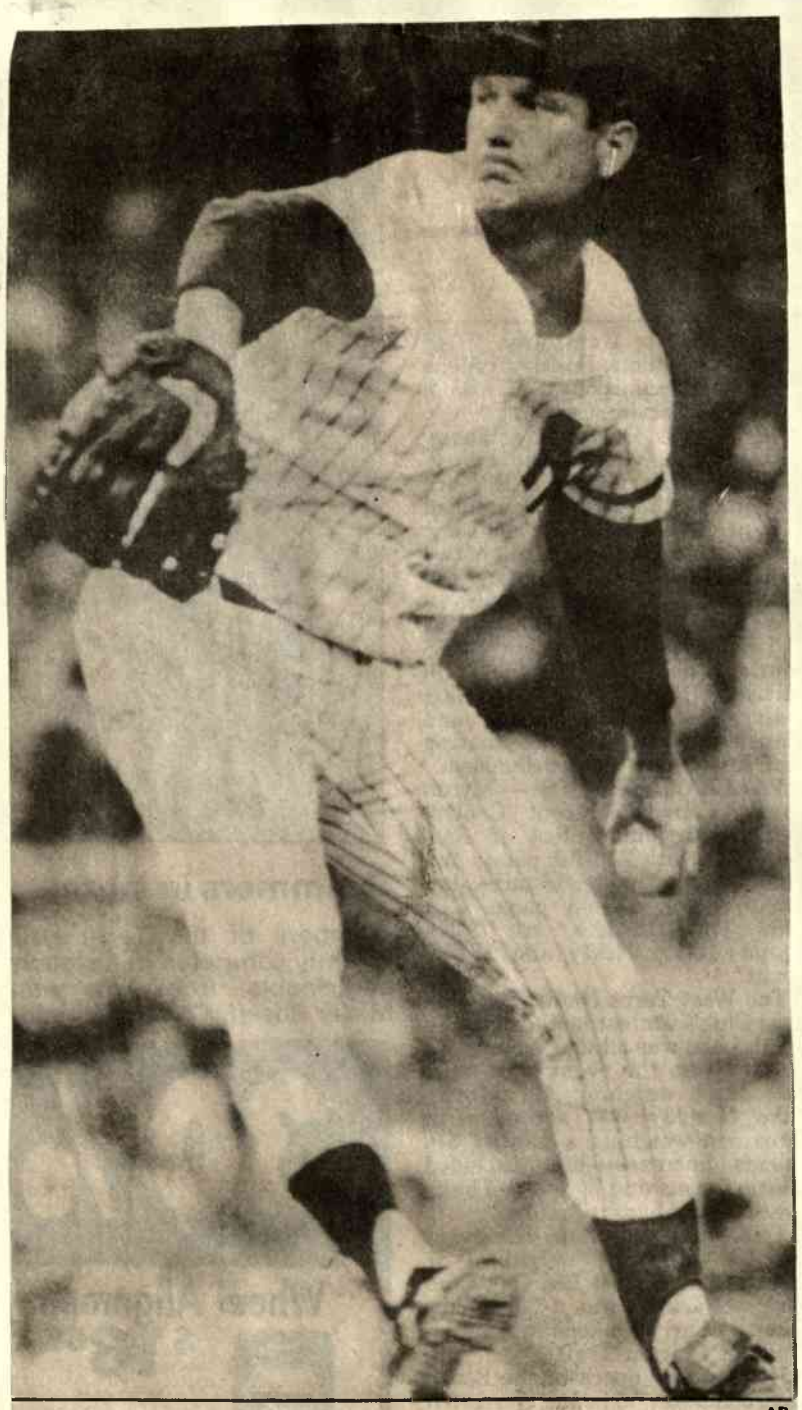
"We were laughing about the last time I was taken out of a close game with Brett up," John recalled. That time, during the 1980 American League playoffs, John was pulled and Brett greeted Rich Gossage with a three-run homer.

John got a standing ovation from the crowd of 32,086 when he left the mound, and the ovation continued loud and long enough that he re-emerged from the dugout to acknowledge the reception.

"I'm just glad I pitched well," John said. "I don't have many starts left."

Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE



AP

TJ in control

NEW YORK — Tommy John, who started his pro baseball career in 1961 following his graduation from Terre Haute Gerstmeyer High School, returned to the active list and shut out the Kansas City Royals over 7⅓ innings Friday night.

John, Tommy

John cited as 'most courageous athlete'

Community Affairs File

T JAN 31 1978

Standing ovation given southpaw

Biog. + Hist. File

By TONY WOOD

CHERRY HILL, N.J. (UPI) — If you think the winter of 1978 has been bad, think of Tommy John's winter of 1975.

The brilliant Los Angeles Dodgers' left-hander had just undergone an arm operation that doctors said was a first in medical history.

John remembers Dr. Frank Jobe, who headed the surgical team which removed a tendon from John's right forearm and implanted it in his left elbow in September 1974, telling him flatly that his career was probably over.

"Dr. Jobe told me 'I can't gaurantee you'll ever be able to throw again, let alone get hitters like (the Philadelphia Phillies') Mike Schmidt and Greg Luzinski out,'" John said.

But John, 34, was able to piece together one of the most incredible comebacks in sports' history. In 1977, he was a 20-game winner in leading the Los Angeles Dodgers to the World Series.

That's why on Monday night, the Philadelphia Sports Writers Association named him its Most Courageous Athlete.

Greeted with a standing ovation by the 1,100 who attended the association's 74th annual dinner, John talked about the dark days of 1975.

"You don't realize what a trying time 1975 was for me," said John, who had to undergo surgery to repair nerve damage two months after the tendon operation and was unable to pitch the entire season. "That year, I found out how much I really loved baseball.

"You always thank God for the good things but we should also thank him for the bad," he said. "Out of adversity comes strength."

Others honored at the association's 74th annual dinner included 17-year-old jockey superstar Steve Cauthen, named the Athlete of the Year.

"It's quite an honor to be recognized for achievements that are noticed among the achievements of the super athletes of the Philadelphia area alone," said the 5-foot-1, reed-thin Cauthen, who rode horses to $6 million in winnings in 1977.

Montreal Canadiens' Coach Scotty Bowman accepted the association's award honoring the Stanley Cup champions as the Team of the Year.

The association named Philadelphia 76ers' superstar Julius Erving and Luzinski as their Philadelphia Professional Athletes of the Year.

THE TRIBUNE, TERRE HAUTE, IND. TUESDAY, JAN. 31, 1978 9

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

MOST COURAGEOUS — Tommy John, the Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher who led his club to the National League pennant last season, smiles as he holds the Most Courageous Award presented to him Monday night by the Philadelphia Sportswriters Association. John, formerly of Terre Haute, was honored for his incredible comeback from arm surgery. The award was made during the association's 74th annual dinner at Cherry Hill. UPI

John, Tommy

Community Affairs File

athlete

Biography - J

Tommy John called remarkable

T AUG 14 1981 Community Affairs File

Community Affairs File

Sports

By MILTON RICHMAN
UPI Sports Editor

NEW YORK (UPI) — Tommy John has to be one of the most remarkable players around today.

Never mind that he was told he'd never pitch again seven years ago after undergoing surgery in which they practically made him a new left elbow by using a tendon from his right forearm. Forget that he won 22 games for the Yankees last year, 21 the year before and that at 38 he came back from the strike and pitched like a million dollars the other night.

His immediate concern right now is not on baseball, but the welfare of his 2 ½-year-old son, Travis, who lies in critical condition in a New Jersey hospital following a fall from a three-story window Thursday. John immediately left the Yankees in Detroit to be at his boy's side.

What Tommy John accomplished on the baseball field is remarkable enough. What makes him even more so is his general thinking about the game, his ideas. He's different from so many ballplayers in that he's a self-starter. He doesn't go by others' theories. He creates his own. And the vast majority of them are well thought out.

At this stage of his career, he's naturally thinking about what he'll do when he can't pitch anymore although the way he pitches, it's hard to conceive there will ever be a time when he no longer can do it.

The Yankee left-hander says he wouldn't mind staying in baseball when he's finished playing. Now most players who say that think in terms of managing in the big leagues. That's where most of the money and the glamor is when you can't play anymore.

Tommy John is listening to a different roll of the drums, though. He has something entirely unlike that in mind. He'd rather work in the front office than down on the field and anyone who does that can tell you there isn't any glamor or that much money there.

"I would like to get into something like the general managership," says the outgoing Yankee left-hander.

The obvious question is why.

"Because I think I understand enough about what free agency is all about now and how to cope with it," John says. "I think I know how not to spend exorbitant prices for free agents."

"How do you do that?" a radio man asks him, moving his mike right under John's nose because this is the answer the whole baseball world is waiting for.

Tommy John shakes his head.

"Oh, no," he says, making it clear he's keeping this one for himself. "It's up here," he smiles, pointing to his head. "I'll tell you this, though. I take my hat off to George Steinbrenner. He has got more for what he has spent, more per cost, than anyone else I know of. Look at the free agents he signed. George got Catfsih (Hunter); (Goose) Gossage; Reggie (Jackson); (Don) Gullett; (Bobby) Watson; (Luis) Tiant and myself. Then he went out and got (Dave) Winfield, and you see what he's doing for this club."

John did an excellent job of bargaining when he became a free agent with the Dodgers and signed with the Yankees in November of 1978. Steinbrenner says he has never enjoyed negotiating with any other player more. Would John use the same approach he did if he was the general manager and had to deal with a player instead?

"Yes," he says. "I think the most important thing you have to bear in mind is to be honest with yourself and with the guy sitting across the table. It doesn't matter what side you sit on in that regard. Too many times under the old system, management would say 'we can't give you this' and 'we can't give you that.' They'd low ball you to start with and then you'd sit there and haggle.

"You know what the Bible says — 'Do unto others.' I believe in that no matter what line of work you're in. Live up to your word. If you're a car dealer and you have credibility, you'll sell cars. If you try to con your customers all the time, you won't."

John recalled a salary negotiation he had with the late Stu Holcomb while he was still with the White Sox. Holcomb was a football man but the White Sox brought him in for a time in the 60's to deal with their players.

"He was an exceptionally honest person," John says. "I remember coming in to talk contract with him one year and he said to me, 'Tommy,

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library

you had a great year but we only drew 400,000 fans. That's not a lot of people. Truthfully, I'd like to give you the $30,000 raise you're asking for. You deserve it, but with what we drew last year, I can only give you $15,000 more.' Eventually, we settled on a $17,500 raise and I was happy. I thought it was reasonable. The big thing was that I felt Stu gave me his best shot the first time out. He didn't try to low ball me. I was making $30,000 at the time."

John makes more than 10 times that now and certainly has earned it, and then some, in today's market.

"I remember my Dad's reaction when I signed three years ago with the Yankees," he says. "He thought it was a lot of money, more than he had ever seen in his life, but he felt I deserved it. My Dad made probably $12,000-$14,000 maximum during all the time he worked. He was a lineman and that meant he had to go out in the worst kind of weather sometimes, climb the pole and change the line. He worked hard. He worked his back off in Indiana and never made anywhere near the money I have, but our jobs are altogether different.

"The fans have a hard time understanding something like that. They have to be educated to the fact we aren't people working on an assembly line. In our work, there are only 650 of us. Maybe some of us are overpaid, but is a Bruce Springsteen overpaid when he gets $500,000 for one of his rock concerts? Is Muhammad Ali overpaid when he gets $5 million or so for a fight?

"I read where Dolly Parton gets $350,000 a week. That's just for one week! Is she worth it? She is because people are willing to pay it. She's an entertainer and that's what we are, too. People pay a lot of money in this country for leisure time entertainment and that's what we're supplying them. People have trouble relating to our salaries, yet when they go to a doctor, they don't think anything of paying him enormous prices.

"Take the meal money we get. We get around $30 a day. I've had people tell me they can live like a king on $30 a day. I guess you can if you go to 'Joe's Beanery' or 'Harry's Hash House' to eat. Big league ballplayers are at the top of their profession. Why should they have to do that? You order a cheeseburger, french fries and a couple cokes in some of the hotels we stay at and the bill comes to almost 20 bucks."

Tommy John has a point but there are people in this country who will tell him they eat for $10 a day and even less. He has done it, too, he says, when he had to. But now he doesn't have to anymore and nobody can argue that.

John, Tommy

Storybook Year For Tommy John

Biography Community Affairs File

OCT 10 1977

By BILL MADDEN

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) — Manager Tom Lasorda and fourth-game heroes Dusty Baker and Tommy John led the National League champions in thanks for a "storybook season" Sunday while waiting to learn who their opponent will be in the World Series.

"This is the greatest thrill of my life," said Lasorda, who became the 19th manager in baseball history to win the pennant in his first season after replacing Walter Alston, the Dodger manager for the previous 23 years. "They went to spring training believing they could beat any club in baseball and they were just wonderful all season.

"It is very satisfying to clinch it in Philadelphia," Lasorda added. "I saw a newspaper clipping that quoted Greg Luzinski as saying the Dodgers didn't even belong on the same field with the Phillies and another one with Danny Ozark saying the Phillies would win the thing in three.

"We will go with Sutton in the first game of the World Series, no matter what city we go into," he added.

The Dodgers, 4-1 victors over the Philadelphia Phillies Saturday night, will meet either the Kansas City Royals or the New York Yankees in the first game of the World Series, Tuesday night, in the American League team's park. They remained in Philadelphia Sunday to watch the outcome of the American League championship series on TV.

"It doesn't matter whether we play the Royals or Yankees," said Baker. "They're both good clubs.

"This is the greatest thing in my career," added Baker, the NL playoff's most valuable player. "Although John is a very good pitcher, we were trying to get more runs because the Phillies are an explosive club."

"It has been a storybook year," said John, who pitched a seven-hitter and struck out eight in the clincher. "This has been the greatest year I've ever had.

"I owe a lot to the Dodgers, my wife and the doctor who operated on me," added the 34-year-old southpaw, whose career was saved by an unusual operation following the 1974 season. "But most of all I thank God. I thank God when I pitch — win or lose. When I speak at churches during the off-season I tell people that when things are bad you have to have faith.

"It's super that Dusty got the MVP award," John noted. "He deserved it. He had been pressing to get his 30th homer. He got it on the last day of the season and has been hot ever since."

The Dodgers shrugged off the wretched conditions under which the fourth game was played — Baker said they once played "under worse conditions in New York" — but the slick, rain-drenched artificial surface helped them score two of their four runs in the fourth game.

The Dodgers carried only a 2-1 lead, thanks to Baker's two-run homer in the second inning, into the fifth. It had been raining steadily since 7 p.m., increasing in intensity in the third and fourth inings, and the playing surface was slick.

Losing pitcher Steve Carlton, the direct victim of both runs, allowed the first on a wild pitch with runners on first and second base and one out. The pitch bounced in front of the plate and skidded all the way to the backstop as Baker scored and Steve Yeager went to ton first and second base and one out. The pitch bounced in front of the plate and skidded all the way to the backstop asn Carlton slipped trying to come off the mound to field Bill Russell's bunt which went for a single.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library

John Tommy

Community Affairs File

Tommy John clinches pennant for Dodgers

Biography John

'How sweet it is,' says Tom Lasorda

T SEP 21 1977

By FRED McMANE
UPI Sports Writer

After two years in the winner's circle, the "Big Red Machine" has finally conked out and the National League West pennant has gone Hollywood again.

The Los Angeles Dodgers, who led the NL West race from opening day, clinched their first NL West title since 1974 Tuesday night when southpaw Tommy John and rookie Lance Rautzhan combined to stop the San Francisco Giants, 3-1.

The loss mathematically eliminated the two-time world champion Reds from contention and deprived them of the chance to become the first team since the St. Louis Cardinals of 1942-43-44 to win three NL pennants in a row.

"How sweet it is," said Manager Tom LaSorda, amid the jubilatiwn of the Dodger clubhouse. "You guys are a great bunch of plawers and I'm grateful to have been chosen your manager."

Most of the credit for the pennant clinching victory had to go to John, the 34-year-old southpaw who only three years ago seemed headed for baseball's scrapheap with a ruined arm. But some miraculous surgery restored John's arm and, after bouncing back to win Comeback of the Year honors last year, he emerged as the team's "stopper" this season.

John blanked the Giants on four hits until the ninth inning when they pushed across a run on a triple by Jack Clark, a walk and a two-out pinch-single by Gary Alexander. Rautzhan then took over and struck out Gary Thomasson for the final out with two runners on base.

The victory was John's 19th of the season against only six losses, and Lasorda once again confirmed that the veteran southpaw would open the National League playoffs against the Philadelphia Phillies.

"He has been my stopper all year," Lasorda said. "And he is my man to open the series.

"We will be playing a great club in Philadelphia. We're looking forward to it and I'm sure they are, too. It should be a tremendous series."

Another major contributor in the victory was Rick Monday, one of the major off-season acquisitions who has played only sparingly the latter half of the season because of back spasms. Monday hit a two-run homer in the second inning after Dusty Baker doubled home the first run of the inning. Monday's homer, his 14th, carried into the upper deck in right field at Candlestick Park and was one of the longest shots ever witnessed there.

"It was a tremendous thrill for me," said Monday. "Not so much to hit the ball that hard, but to help the team win it."

Reds 4, Padres 0

Tom Seaver pitched his sixth shutout of the year and posted his 19th triumph in leading the Reds over the Padres. George Foster tied the Cincinnati club record for most homers in a season by belting his 49th in the first inning. Foster's homer was a two-run shot which raised his RBI total to 142, only six short of the team record set by Johnny Bench in 1970. Don Werner also homered for the Reds.

Phillies 4, Cubs 2

Steve Carlton pitched a four-hitter for his 22nd victory and batterymate Tim McCarver drove in three runs with a two-run homer and a sacrifice fly as the Phillies reduced their magic number for clinching their second straight NL title to four. Carlton's route-going performance was his 16th of the year.

Pirates 4, Mets 2

Bill Robinson, the club RBI leader, singled home the tie-breaking run in a two-run eighth inning that gave the Pirates a victory over the Mets and helped John Candelaria to his 18th triumph. Candelaria, who has lost only five and boasts the best winning percentage in the majors, lowered his major-league leading ERA to 2.48.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE

DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

John on way to Cy Young Award

Tommy always was optimistic

Burg T AUG 12 1977

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tommy John, a pitcher who has not received much recognition over the years, may be on his way to the Cy Young Award not long after many felt his career was over.

Despite a career record of 134-116 and an earned run average of 2.98 entering the 1977 season, John has been chosen for the All-Star Game only once during a major league career that began in 1963.

The 34-year-old left-hander, who missed the last half of the 1974 season and the entire 1975 campaign because of a ruptured ligament in his pitching arm, is pitching better than ever. He has a 13-4 record and a 2.74 ERA after 21 starts.

"My arm never bothers me now," John said. "I think I'm pitching better than ever now; I think I'm throwing harder and I think my curveball is better.

"I never doubted that I would be back," he added. "The reason why talk of me being through didn't bother me was because those people could have no way of knowing what was inside of me. They couldn't realize how badly I wanted to come back."

Although John won't say so, it is obvious that the lack of recognition bothers him, and that probably would make winning the Cy Young Award much more meaningful.

John was injured July 17, 1974 while pitching against the Montreal Expos. It was his first start after the All-Star Game, a contest which didn't include him despite his outstanding record of 13-3 at the time.

"I think the most satisfying things for me as far as baseball is concerned are coming back from the injury and playing in the 1968 All-Star Game," said John. "I was as disappointed as I could be when I wasn't chosen in 1974, but there's nothing you can do about it."

John was 10-10 with a 3.09 ERA last season in a strong comeback. He appears to be a cinch to surpass his career-high 16 victories of 1973 this year.

"I'm not surprised I'm pitching well now," said John. "The main thing is pitching for a first-place team.

"Every pitcher wants to win the next game out and every starter wants to win 20 games, a Cy Young Award and all that," he continued. "But the thing that comes first is pitching for a winner.

"The Cy Young Award would be nice," John said in understatement. "There are a lot of factors that enter into the Cy Young, how you finish, how the team finishes and how much publicity you receive."

John is among a number of NL pitchers who are having outstanding seasons, others being Steve Carlton of Philadelphia, Rick Reuschel of the Chicago Cubs, Tom Seaver of Cincinnati and Bob Forsch of St. Louis.

But none have come back like John. And perhaps none has done as well as him over the years with as little recognition.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

Biography Community Affair's File

S OCT 1 0 1977

T RRE HAUTE'S OWN—Tommy John, shown getting ready to deliver a pitch against the Philadelphia Phillies Saturday night as he hurled the Los Angeles Dodgers to a National League pennant, was the winning pitcher in the deciding game, allowing just seven hits. The former Gerstmeyer High athlete won 20 games during the regular season and is now ready for the World Series. (Star Photo: UPI)

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library Community Affairs File

John, Tommy

Biography - J.

John will coach

Ts JUL 24 1986

CHAPEL HILL, N.C (AP) — Terre Haute native Tommy John of the New York Yankees, who has won 262 major league games with six clubs, was named pitching coach at the University of North Carolina Wednesday, and will join the Tar Heels when the Yankees end their season.

JOHN

The announcement was made by UNC Athletic Director John Swofford and baseball coach Mike Roberts. A Yankees' spokesman said the club knew nothing of the appointment.

John, a 43-year old left-hander with a 3-1 record for New York this season, was placed on the 21-day disabled list July 12 with a strained achillies tendon suffered on July 8.

In a career spanning 23 years, John had compiled a record of 262-208.

"I'm pleased that Tommy has chosen to begin his coaching career at Carolina," Roberts said in a prepared statement. "All of us involved with the baseball program look forward to working with him. We feel his professional pitching experience will certainly help our program and particularly our young pitching staff in the future."

John, who prepped at Terre Haute Gerstmeyer and attended Indiana State, will conduct a news conference in Chapel Hill today.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

A Distinguished Living Terre Hautoan B'ball

Tommy John Hurls

Community Affairs File

9-3 Win Over Phils

T MAY 30 1973

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Like any other pitcher, Los Angeles Dodger left-hander Tommy John prefers to talk about his hitting, not his pitching.

Tuesday night he pitched the Dodgers to their fifth straight victory with a 9-3 win over the Philadelphia Phillies as Los Angeles moved to within one-half game of first place San Francisco in the National League's Western Division.

He also contributed two singles to the Dodgers' 15-hit attack, one of them with the bases loaded and it accounted for two of the nine runs.

"Both my hits were curve balls," he said, "and generally I can't hit curve balls. I can't explain what happened."

That can be said for the Dodgers.

Ordinarily a club loaded with pitching but little in the way of hitting, the Dodgers' team batting average now is .278, highest in the majors.

Joe Ferguson batted in four runs with a pair of two-run doubles, once again taking over the NL RBI lead with 41.

"Our pitching is starting to come around and we are playing good defense," said Ferguson, explaining the Dodgers' burst in May in which they're 18-8.

"I just get a special feeling when I come up and there are men on base. I feel I've got to hit. When I don't, I feel I've let the club down."

With his two hits, John took his place alongside the offense. "As a (pitching) staff we haven't been hitting like we can," he said after posting his fourth win in six decisions. "We're not great hitters but we don't strike out much. This helps keep us in a game."

John pitched into the ninth but when he surrendered three singles Jim Brewer took over and got out of it with no runs scoring. It was the fifth save for the Dodger relief ace.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

John, Tommy

Community Affairs File

Dodgers Lose Tommy

JUL 18 1974

John Indefinitely

Suffers Painful Pulled Muscle

JUL 18 1974 By JIM COUR

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—The Los Angeles Dodgers are going to have to hold off the recharged Cincinnati Reds without Tommy John at least for awhile.

In exactly seven days, the Dodgers have seen their lead in the National League West dissipate from 10½ to 5½ games.

And now they've lost John indefinitely with a pulled muscle in the area of his left elbow.

Leading 4-0 over the Montreal Expos Wednesday night, the Dodgers' crack southpaw—the league's winningest pitcher with a 13-3 record—suddenly walked off the mound in the third inning.

"My arm felt a little stiff in the second inning and it finally pulled in the third," John reported. "But it had nothing to do with my surgery."

Los Angeles wound up losing 5-4 as Don Carrithers pitched seven shutout innings in relief for Montreal. It was the Dodgers' fifth defeat in six games.

Walter Alston, the Dodger manager, refused to be pessimistic about his club's chances with John sidelined.

"We've had things go wrong before and we've bounced back," he said. "It's going to help with the All-Star game coming up. We'll have a chance to rest some of our pitchers."

Dr. Frank Jobe, the Dodgers' orthopedic specialist, examined John after he left the game and put his arm in ice.

"Tommy said the pain was both above and below the elbow," added Dodger trainer Bill Buhler, "but not in the elbow itself."

Left off the National League All-Star squad by Yogi Berra of the New York Mets Wednesday, John will be re-examined today to see if there is any swelling in his left elbow. He underwent surgery on the elbow during the offseason for removal of bone chips.

TOMMY JOHN

Since coming to the Dodgers in the Dick Allen trade three years ago, John has compiled a 40-15 record.

With reliever Jim Brewer in the hospital with a bad back, the Dodgers are down to seven pitchers.

"We can go with nine but not seven," said Alston. The call is expected to go out today to the Dodgers' Albuquerque farm club.

Veteran Al Downing will start in John's place against Philadelphia here Sunday.

Andy Messersmith, 10-2, will go for the Dodgers tonight against Ernie McAnally, 6-10.

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Biography

Distinguished Living Terre Hauteans

T.J. Reflects On Past And Gives Thanks

6 DEC 24 1976

Biography File — Community Affairs File

By MIKE RUSSELL
Star Sports Writer

"Sunshine is good, but if all you have is sunshine, you end up with a desert."

COVINGTON, Ind.—It was July 17, 1974. Tommy John was on the mound at Dodger Stadium, warming up prior to the start of the inning. He threw one pitch and knew that something had happened. He threw another just to be certain. Something was definitely wrong.

The tall, sandy-haired left hander walked from the mound, past Walt Alston, through the dugout, and into the locker room. His record at the time was a glittering 13-3, but the days of sunshine had ended and storm clouds were forming for the Terre Haute native.

Two-and-a-half years later, on a cold, snowy night in this small western Indiana community, Tommy was looking back. His audience was composed of youthful boys and girls who had come to hear him speak at the United Methodist Church. His reflections were enlightening as he continued his look back.

An operation followed, two months after the injury, on Sept. 25. His season with the Dodgers was over. His career in baseball, as well, might be over.

During the fall of 1974, doctors became aware of nerve damage in the left arm of Tommy. The nerve laymen identify as the 'crazy bone' had ceased to function. He that at one time could pinpoint a fastball and break off a curve with incredible accuracy was now unable to eat, open doors, write, or do anything with the left hand that had made him the most effective pitcher on the Los Angeles staff that year.

The doctors told him that he had a choice. They didn't know what the nerve would do, but they knew that if they didn't operate Tommy would never pitch again. If they did go ahead with the surgery, he might. On Dec. 18, they operated.

"My wife, Sally, and I prayed," Tommy remembers, "and we left it up to the good Lord. I worked hard in spring training, even though I couldn't properly grip a baseball. It was extremely difficult: something that I had been able to do all my life, suddenly I could no longer do.

"And then one day Sally and I were sitting in a church in Los Angeles, and the pastor was reading from Luke 1:37—'For nothing will be impossible with God'—and I was looking at the pastor and he was looking at me, and I knew that God was talking to me through the pastor, saying that Tommy John will come back somehow, someway."

His faith in the Lord made him a bit of a mystery with the west coast sports writers.

"The sports writers couldn't understand what was keeping me from going wacko. I turned everything over to Him, and He did the worrying. I worked hard and left the rest up to Him."

The next year, 1975, was the toughest Tommy ever spent in baseball. His forced inactivity was much harder to bear than any 2-8, 2-9 season he had ever suffered through.

As usual, he would go to the ball park with the other players who lived nearby. Along with the other Dodgers, Tommy would go out and stretch, run, do exercises, shag balls, pitch batting practice, and do everything else a ball player normally does in preparing for a game.

But then, when the game was about to start, Tommy would return to the locker room, don his street clothes, go to the stands, and sit.

"I could help the ball club do nothing," He says. "This is where my faith in the Lord grew more than at any other time. I felt the Lord would do His job; it was up to me to do mine."

Which was to trust in Him.

In 1975, there were just three people who believed that Tommy would come back: Tommy, Sally, and Ben Wade, director of scouting.

As anyone who follows baseball knows, Tommy came back. In 1976, he was named Comeback Player of the Year and received the Hutch Award. But 1974 was not forgotten.

"If all that wouldn't have happened," Tommy reflects, "I wouldn't have appreciated what the good Lord could do. God has a plan for everyone's life, and all this was planned by the good Lord to make me a better person, a better ball player, and a better Christian.

"Before this happened, no one knew about Tommy John's faith in God. But here's a platform. He provided through an injury."

Tommy is very much aware of the unique position athletes enjoy in today's culture. No other group—not movie stars, politicians, nor educators—have the credibility and prestige of athletes. And Tommy is concerned of the type of model athletes are proving themselves to be.

"Drugs used to be the big thing with athletes," he says, "but now it's chapel services. More and more guys are speaking out for the Lord.

"The Lord's gift to us (in addition to Christ) is our ability. Our gift to Him is how we use that ability.

"To let people know that the Lord is Number One in your life is important."

Tommy John, along with teammates Don Sutton, Steve Garvey, Dusty Baker, and Bill Russell, are seeing to it that everyone that comes in contact with them is well aware of Him, indeed.

Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

DEC 2 4 1978

YOUNGEST JOHN—Tami John was two years old earlier this month. She was born about the same time her Los Angeles Dodger father pitcher, Tommy John, was operated on, surgery from which he came back to pitch again this season.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library

Tommy John

'an outside chance he'll be able to pitch toward the end of the season'

Sp AUG 2 1975

Biography

Community Affairs File

Distinguished living Terre Hauteans

By Ron LaRoche

THROWING AGAIN -- Tommy John winds up to throw batting practice for the Los Angeles Dodgers during a three-game series against the St. Louis Cardinals. (Photo by Steve LaRoche).

ST. LOUIS, MO.---There is a slight possibility that Tommy John, the Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher from Terre Haute, may pitch for the Dodgers this season, according to Walter Alston, Los Angeles manager.

John hurt his arm last year just before the All-Star Game break when he was sailing along with the best won-lost record (13-3) in the major leagues. He has not pitched since then.

This year at the All-Star break he pitched batting practice for the Dodgers during a three-game series against the St. Louis Cardinals.

"He's been pitching batting practice for us the last three weeks," Alston said. "I think his arm is coming around pretty good. He's probably 80 per cent in his arm. There's an outside chance he'll be able to pitch toward the end of the season."

John is on the disabled list. Surgery was performed on his pitching (left) arm this past winter. Both Alston and John have become more optimistic about his chances of returning to the Dodgers' starting rotation next year.

"Chances are better and better I will be pitching again, if not this year, positively next year," John Told Tom Reck, sports editor of The Terre Haute Star. "There was no way, they said, I would be this far along now."

John looked surprisingly sharp pitching batting practice and warming up in the bullpen before the games. His fast ball was popping; his curve ball was lacking. Alston said John's big problem now is his thumb.

John told Reck he had a grip problem because of a nerve not functioning as it should. "Ordinarily I would be gripping more toward the middle."

Other Dodger injuries have slowed the Dodgers this year, but none has been as serious as the loss of John for the season. Alston said reliefer Mike Marshall was pitching at top form but that shortstop Bill Russell and outfielder Bill Buckner "are only about 85 per cent ready." All three played in the Cardinal series.

Alston laughed when I asked if he thought the Dodgers could catch the Cincinnati Reds in the Western Division race (they trailed by 11 1/2 games at the time and lost another game that day), "Your guess is as good as mine. If we're going to do it, we better get started.

"We just can't keep on blaming injuries too much longer. Ferguson was just coming around when we lost him. He had a good second half last year and could have helped us this year." Joe Ferguson is out for the year with an injury sustained during an on-the-field fracas with the San Diego Padres.

"We've got good pitching, but you just can't shut the other team out every day," Alston said.

Sitting in the Dodger dugout talking to Alston was something else. I was talking to this guy who has managed the Dodgers for the past 20 years. He looked older than what I had imagined based on the baseball cards I had collected in the 50s.

At one time I pounced on a baseball which trickled into the dugout and threw it back to Willie Crawford who had yelled, "Hey, a little help there." Ah yes, close to the bigs at last.

Speaking to the players was difficult. I was intimidated. I have had no problems talking to politicians, several of them presidential candidates. But these baseball players are pure heroes, at least on the field. Imagine, being paid thousands of dollars to play a game.

My being on the field was a fantasy world for a grown up kid who had spent a quarter of his life every summer playing baseball 12 hours per day. Some of these people (Alston, Cardinal manager Red Schoendienst, Dodger coach Junior Gilliam) wore the faces of the baeball cards I had collected. I had agonized with Alston and Gilliam in their battles against the hated Yankees.

People grow up, me included (but reluctantly). I remember the old Busch stadium as a kid. I remember Stan Musial at the end of his career doubling off the high right field wall. I remember Sandy Koufax shutting out the Cardinals. I remember Maury Wills stealing bases there.

It's difficult to find a childhood again. I see about a dozen games each year, mostly at St. Louis. The stadium is modern now. The players have changed over the years. But being down on the field around those players, I did find my childhood again. It was a good, happy feeling.

T. J. Returns To Mound

SEP 24 1975 B Copy

MESA, Ariz. (UPI) — Tommy John, the Los Angeles Dodger southpaw who hurt his pitching arm in 1974, threw three innings Tuesday in an Arizona Instructional League game in what a Dodger official called an "outstanding performance."

John pitched the first three innings of a game against farm players from the California Angels and did not allow a hit nor a walk. He struck out three and all the other outs were on ground balls.

"It was an outstanding performance whether it was in the instructional league or not," said Al Campanis, Dodger vice president in charge of player personnel and a delighted observer. "Tommy had good rhythym, velocity and control. He hit the corners well."

John, 32, had a 13-3 record when he ruptured a ligament in his left elbow July 17, 1974. He underwent surgery Sept. 25, 1974 and had to sit out the 1975 season.

In his performance Tuesday, he threw only 33 pitches, about 8 or 10 of them curves.

"My curve was as good as ever," he said. "They tell me my fastball was clocked at 80 miles an hour. I felt no pain whatsoever."

He will try to go four innings in his next start but does not know when that will be. John will remain in Arizona until the end of October, working out carefully under the eye of Dodger coaches.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Biog.

Community Affairs File

Tommy John Set For Mound Debut In Mesa, Ariz.

SEP 16 1975

Tommy John is scheduled to make his return to the pitching ranks next Tuesday.

No, the Los Angeles Dodger lefty won't be hurling against a National League opponent that day. Instead, T. J. will be on the mound in an instructional league contest in Mesa, Arizona.

Tommy has been on the mend since the middle of last season and particularly since last fall when he underwent surgery on his pitching elbow. Much of the year he has pitched batting practice for the ball club.

On the Dodger instructional league team will be some members of the parent club as well as prospects from the organization. They'll compete against other club teams.

Club officials said Tommy will be at Mesa until October 30.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John Tommy

Community Affairs File 1

Neighbors

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

The Tribune-Star's New 'Roto'

April 16, 1983
15 cents sold singly

Faith sustains Johns during crises

Biography

T APR 15 1983

By MARIA WILCOX
Special to Neighbors

Traveling with a team began for baseball great Tommy John when he was a small boy. As mascot of the Gerstmeyer High School basketball team, he accompanied the players on the bus to out-of-town games. Sometimes, on especially long trips, he slept in the luggage rack above the seats. Traveling to ball games — on a national

Vintage Vignette

scope — was to become a way of life for the Terre Haute youth who began his professional career a week after graduating from Gerstmeyer as valedictorian of his 1961 class.

"Watching Tommy going around the house packing up all his things — and he was only 18 years old — to see him leave home was hard," reflects Ruth John.

"But he was doing what he wanted. He always, always said he wanted to be a professional baseball player. And he came along quicker probably by signing with Cleveland than with any other club because they needed left-handed pitchers. That's why they wanted him desperately.

"Tommy worked awfully hard to become a major-league player. He still has to — more so. In professional ball you have to keep improving — to keep yourself up there."

Tommy was with the Cleveland Indians until he was traded to the Chicago White Sox in 1965.

"We always went down to Sarasota when he'd take spring training and we'd make trips to see him play when he'd be in our part of the country," his mother recalls. Their son also came to Terre Haute frequently to see his parents. On one of those visits, he met the girl who was to be his wife. That was in 1969.

He and Sally Simmons, an Indiana State University student from Plainfield, were married a year later at the All-Star break in July. Tommy chose his dad to be best man.

Two years later Tommy was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers and the young couple moved to the West Coast — far away from Indiana.

"I don't care how old they get, their problems are your problems," muses Mrs. John as she thinks back to the crises in Tommy's life and the anguish she and her husband shared with their son and his wife. She emphasizes that it was a time of strong Christian faith and that all things are possible through God.

It was in 1974, at the height of a winning season while pitching to Montreal when Tommy ripped the ligament that held his elbow together. In an operation that had never been done before, Dr. Frank Jobe and Dr. Herbert Stark removed a tendon from the right wrist and forearm and fashinoned it into a new ligament for his left elbow.

The surgeons drilled four tiny holes in the bones, threaded tendon through the holes, and wove the ends together, suturing them to the bones.

Less than three months later a second operation was performed to remove scar tissue blocking a nerve. At that time doctors told John that he'd never pitch again and advised him to find another profession.

"Well, Tommy just couldn't see that because he loved baseball," his mother recalls. "But, he never gave up. He said, 'I'm going to make it, because all things are possible with God.'

"I'll never forget the first day he pitched after his arm came back. Oh, my! You just can't imagine! We cried — we just said, 'Thank You, Lord,' because it was an answer to a prayer."

That strong personal faith would sustain them in another dark hour.

In November 1978 Tommy signed with the New York Yankees and moved his family to the East Coast. It was while they were living in New Jersey that the near-fatal accident occurred.

Ruth John vividly recalls the details as they were related to her:

"Sally, her sister, Judy Ashton, who was visiting them, and the children had gone to a friend's oceanside home, a big, tall old home with a playroom on the top floor three-and-a-half stories high.

"Sally had the babysitter with her and had told her not to leave Travis, 'cause he was a little adventurous boy. 'Whatever you do, don't leave him, but if you do have to, let me know so I can be with him,' Sally cautioned her.

"Well, the girl went out of the room for just an instant. There were big window seats at the window and the screens had just been put in. Young Tommy said his brother was sitting there, bouncing against the screen. The screen gave way and down he went.

"Sally remembered that when they arrived at the house, she started to park the car back aways and then something just said, 'Oh, park underneath this window.' So when Travis fell, he hit the car first. The force of the impact tore his sneakers off his feet and flipped him over on his head onto the cement. The doctor said that if the car hadn't been there he would have been killed instantly.

"Well, when Travis fell, Tommy and his sister, Tami, went screaming for their mother. Sally said she ran down there instantly and that she happened to have a bottle of fingernail polish in her hand. She said, 'Where I got it, I don't know. I wasn't fixing my nails.'

"When she got to Travis he wasn't breathing and she tried to put her finger in his mouth, but he had his teeth

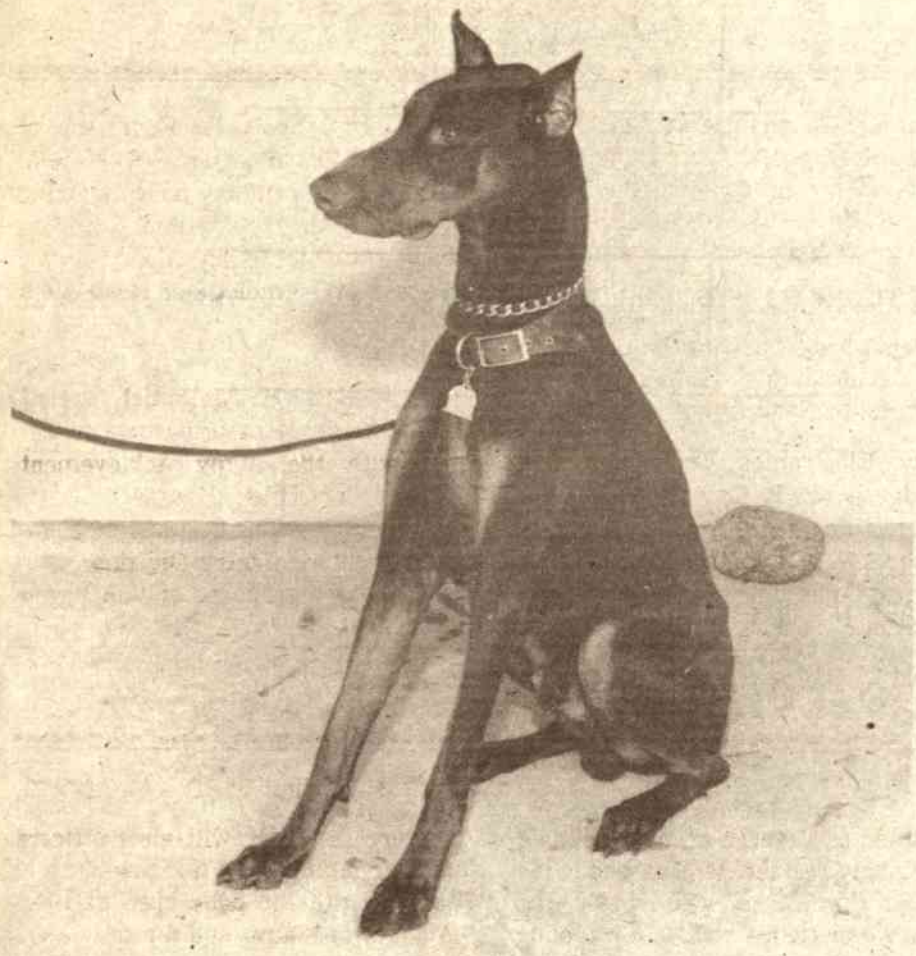
See "Faith," page 2.
on back

Poignant moment

Travis John, under the watchful eye of family friend Reggie Jackson and his mother, Sally, throws out the first pitch in the Yankees-Milwaukee Brewers playoff game Oct. 9, 1981, in Yankee Stadium. AP

Editor's Note: *This is the second of a two-part story about Tommy John, the latest local player to make it big in major-league baseball, as related by his mother. Today's installment chronicles Tommy's career-threatening arm injury and Travis' near-fatal fall.*

Vigo County Public Library



Pet of the Week

"This handsome, noble fellow is 'Caesar,' a 14-month-old Doberman," report his hosts at the Terre Haute Humane Society Shelter, adding, "Once Caesar adjusts to his new home and family, he will be a wonderful pet. He has been accustomed to being an inside pet, is housebroken, and is very well-behaved. (The previous owners stated that when they were not at home and Caesar was inside with his rawhide bone and rubber chew toys, nothing else was bothered.) Caesar loves attention from adults and children alike, and seems quite affectionate. He will be available, on bids, at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon at the Shelter, 1811 S. Fruitridge Ave., where daily adoption hours are 1 to 5 p.m.

Sun-worshipers among animals

Nature's Way

By MARY BETH EBERWEIN
Dobbs Park Naturalist

Have you been catching some "rays" and improving your tan this spring? Humans aren't the only ones who enjoy sunbathing — animals from birds to butterflies also soak up the sun.

Animals, however, don't sunbathe for the same reasons we do — they can't get a tan! Cold-blooded animals such as snakes, lizards and turtles bask in the sun to warm up their bodies so they can digest their food and move more quickly.

Unlike warm-blooded animals, cold-blooded ones don't get heat from the food they eat. Instead, their heat must come from their environment. Reptiles which are habitual sun-bathers often are dark-colored so they can absorb the sun's heat more quickly. Dark-shelled painted turtles can often be seen basking near the lake here at Dobbs Park.

Of course, reptiles aren't the only cold-blooded animals who enjoy the sun. A dark brown butterfly, the mourning cloak, is one of the first butterflies we see in the spring. When it spreads out its dark wings, it soaks up heat very quickly from the sun and gains the energy to fly around on cool, but sunny days. On cool summer mornings, insects like dragonflies can often be seen sunning themselves before they take off on their flights.

And what about warm-blooded sunbathers? They certainly don't need the sun's heat to digest their food. Some birds and mammals seem to sunbathe for the sheer enjoyment of it. Like us, they seem to like feeling the sun's warmth on their bodies.

Birds often contort themselves strangely when they sunbathe. In fact, they often look like they're in agony instead of ecstasy! A basking bird usually lies partly on its side and spreads out its wings and tail on the ground. In addition, it often cocks its head to the side, opens its beak and has a very dazed expression.

On many occasions, a concerned nature center visitor has seen a sunbathing bird and rushed into the office to tell me about the sick bird on the ground near our door.

It's been theorized that sunbathing birds with opened wings and tails are trying to get rid of lice and mites by exposing them to the heat of the sun. This theory makes sense, because birds can't feel the sun's heat on their spread wings and tails, since feathers are non-living material. But those parasites would get too hot and hopefully evacuate the premises!

So, whether they are basking for heat, for pest control or for sheer enjoyment, many animals enjoy the spring sun.

Today at the Nature Center, 2 p.m.: "Wildflower Walk" The old-growth forest of Dobbs Park is carpeted with wildflowers now — come enjoy them on this mile-long walk.

Broad band plantings harvest more beans

Lawn & Garden

By ROBERT L. FULLER
Extension Agent, Horticulture

Once planted in rows 36 inches apart for ease of cultivation, beans have been spaced only 24 inches apart in most home gardens for the past decade or so.

Now, with the emphasis on intensive gardening, bean planting has undergone still another change. The recommendation now is to plant beans in broad bands, up to 4 feet across. In this manner, the center can be weeded or harvested from either side.

Researchers at one southern university made a study of closely spaced bush snap beans and bush limas. They found the yield of bush snap beans continued to increase with the plant population until the plants were crowded into rows 6 inches apart, with 4 inches betwen plants in a row.

The yield of pods from plants in 6x4-inch centers was almost double that of plants spaced 4 inches apart in rows 36 inches apart.

Bush lima beans have larger, more spreading plants than bush snap beans. Yet they also responded positively to close row spacing, the research showed. Yield of limas continued to increase until rows were spaced only 9 inches apart.

Lima beans apparently dislike being crowded within the row, however. Eight inches between seeds in the row produced better results than a 4-inch spacing.

Gardeners who plan to plant winged beans, an oriental vegetable with edible leaves, stems, pods and seeds, will harvest only two-thirds of the total plant.

Blooming of winged beans is triggered by short days. In our area, the plants will not bloom before late fall, meaning that winter freezes will kill the plants before pods and seeds have a chance to develop.

Gardeners who plant winged beans will be able to harvest leaves, which are similar to spinach, and stems, which are like asparagus. However, supplies of seed for winged beans are limited.

Tips for the week

Hand pick bagworms from small trees and shrubs. These bags each contain several hundred eggs which will hatch into young bagworms about June 1.

Prepare beds for annual flowers. Spade to work in peat moss, sand and fertilizer. Add 5-10-5 at the rate of 1½ pounds per 100 square feet of bed area.

Faith

Continued from page 1.

clenched so she couldn't do it. So she took the bottle and pried his little teeth apart and stuck her finger in there. He was swallowing his tongue and she flipped his tongue out. When she did that he started breathing and the doctor said that's what saved his life.

"Of course, they got an ambulance right away and it just happened that in the small hospital in this little town, Point Pleasant, New Jersey, there were *two* neurosurgeons — and that is a miracle in itself."

Mrs. John considers and goes on to explain the doctors had to drill four holes in Travis' head to get the pressure off.

"Travis was taken by helicopter to New York to the highly recommended neurosurgeon, Dr. Eckstein. We saw this on TV, but not before Sally's sister called us that night to let us know about it.

"We were frantic. We didn't know whether Travis would live or die, because he was unconscious for two weeks. Dr. Eckstein said that the surgeons drilling those holes was really what saved his life, too, because that relieved the pressure. Tommy called us daily to let us know his son's progress. The doctor had them talk to Travis constantly. They sang to him and rubbed rough and soft materials on him for the feel of things. The doctor said all this might penetrate the brain. One day Travis looked at them and said, 'Mommy, I'm hungry!'

"We put it in God's hands. Travis fully recovered. He is four years old now," beams the proud grandmother. "His sister, Tami, is eight, Tommy III is five and Taylor is one. They are all TJs," she smiles.

Biog

Community Affairs File

Tommy John Put On List

OCT 1 1975

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Left-handed pitcher Tommy John, out of action since an elbow injury in July, 1974, was reinstated to the Los Angeles Dodgers' 40-man roster Tuesday.

John, who had hoped to return for the 1975 season after surgery, won his way back for a shot in 1976 by pitching well in the Arizona Instructional League this fall.

Also back on the roster was Joe Ferguson, the catcher who suffered a broken arm in a fight during a game against the San Diego Padres last July 1.

The Dodgers also announced they had purchased shortstop Rafael Landestoy from their Pacific Coast League Club in Albuquerque. Landestoy hit .280 for Waterbury, Conn., of the Eastern League, with 31 runs batted in and 41 stolen bases.

To make room on the 40-man roster, the Dodgers assigned outfielder Charlie Manuel, infielder Bob Randall and pitchers Larry Corrigan, Dave Sells and Rick Nitz Albuquerque.

John, who had his elbow virtually rebuilt, was 13-3 prior to snapping a tendon on July 17, 1974. He has pitched seven innings in the insrucional league whout giving up a run.

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

S APR 9 1983

Community Affairs File

Mom lives, dies for Angel-son

Biography - John Tommy

By MARIA WILCOX
Special to Neighbors

Vintage Vignette

"Tommy first showed his pitching arm when he was six months old," Ruth John says, smiling. "Always with his left hand," continues the proud mother of Terre Haute's famous southpaw pitcher. "We'd wad up paper and put a string around it and, my, how he'd love to throw it!"

Tommy John's parents never tried to change his natural inclination for using his left hand. "The doctor ordered us not to, that it is confusing to a child," she claims. "I imagine it might have affected his coordination — and he always was unusually well-coordinated.

"Tommy was a very mischievous child."

She chuckles as she recalls one time she sent him to the store for a loaf of bread.

"He was always throwing things up into the air and catching them. When he brought the loaf of bread home, it looked like anything but a loaf of bread."

"Dad got Tommy his first bat when he was 5 or 6 years old," Mrs. John recalls, and goes on to speak of her husband's dedication to his family. "He was an avid golfer, but he gave up the game to help Tommy get started."

Tommy Sr. was a good semipro baseball player for the first few years of the couple's marriage. After their first child, Marilyn, was born, he gave it up because he felt it was not worth the risk of an injury and its consequences to his family's security.

Mrs. John confesses she didn't know a thing about baseball until she started going to all the games he played in. "You might say I've been raised on baseball," she quips. "When your son plays it like our son has, you just live and die baseball. It gets in your blood."

Mrs. John was born to William and Leanna "Susie" Wood in Terre Haute. As the baby in an all-daughter family, she didn't have to do any cooking or baking. But when she married her semipro sweetheart on May 21, 1934, homemaking just cane naturally to her.

"I had never cooked a meal in my life, but it was fun learning. When you're young and in love, you try to please." Her husband, who knew how to cook, helped his 20-year-old bride.

Like father, like son, Tommy is a good cook too, his mother says.

She especially cherishes the memories of his toddler days when he was 3 to 5 years old.

"He'd hang around the kitchen by me. When I'd make a pie, he'd make on, too. He loved to do those things and to work puzzles. Every time I'd go to town, I'd bring him home one of a series. He'd have them worked before you could turn around. I taught him his ABCs. He knew them before he started to school. He has a high I.Q.

"'One night we took hin to a prayer meeting and he got up and recited the books of the Bible — all those difficult names!"

Ruth, Tommy John Sr. with son's baseball mementos

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Mrs. John read a lot to little Tommy and taught him about God and took him to Sunday School where he "sang with a strong voice."

Tommy's sister Marilyn, six years his senior, "could carry a tune from the time she could talk," claims Mrs. John, whose husband's people all came from Wales. The Welsh are noted for their singing. She believes her daughter inherited this talent. Marilyn went on to college in Cincinnati about the time Tommy was in Gerstmeyer High. She earned a master's degree in voice. In national competition in Minneapolis, she was named "Singer of the Year," an honorearned her an audition with the Metropolitan Opera.

As for "Little Tommy" — as he was known because he was small for his age — his first big win was a new pair of shoes that he got for hitting a home run at the Little League ball park at Rose and Schaal avenues. Ray Hahn of Hahn Shoe Store in Terre Haute was the benefactor to each boy who hit a homer.

"Why, he was as proud of getting those shoes, of making a home run, as if he'd won a major-league ball game!" exclaims his mother. "He was just a little 10-year old boy then, and he was *little*. He didn't start growing until he was a sophomore at Gerstmeyer.

"He's dedicated. When you dedicate yourself, you're going to excel. When they were in Babe Ruth and the different leagues, a lot of the boys would go swimming the day before a baseball game, but Tommy didn't because his dad told him he'd be too tired. He went swimming other days, but not the day before a game," his mother relates.

She goes on to say that Tommy always respected his dad's advice then as he does today.

"Dad had been a good ballplayer himself and he taught Tommy all he knew about the game. He was Tommy's coach and taught him the Christian concepts as well as the fundamentals of the game.

"Love is everything in a home," she explains. "I was always for anything that my kids wanted. Our daughter's singing contests kept us busy first and when Tommy got into baseball. Well, that was our fun.

"When Tommy was eight years old in the beginner's league at Spencer (Ball) Park, I became involved. The mothers had to wash uniforms and take care of a lot of things; we hauled the littele players back and forth — go and get them. We had a lot of late meals," she smiles.

"Dad and I tried to get along with our kids. If they had a game, wherever it might be, we would go. We walways took them on vacation every summer."

So the years flew by and Tommy's pitching ability brought his Babe Ruth League team to state finals and state championship. His high school baseball record was 28 wins, 2 losses. He also excelled at basketball, breaking the Gerstmeyer single-game record of 47 points, bringing him many college scholarship offers.

"But Tommy wanted to go professional," his mother says.

The major league scouts were after him. "He pitched a game for Gerstmeyer one evening and they were lined up along the fence watching him: Scouts from Kansas City, Detroit, Cleveland, the Phillies, California," his mother recalls.

"The Phillies scout was on our doorstep night and day. He'd be at all the games. If I were cold, he'd get a blanket out of his car to put around me. He must have thought that consideration would be an influence. It wasn't," she grins.

Cleveland made the best offer, so Tommy signed with the Indians.

Tommy graduated from Gerstmeyer in 1961. He was valedictorian in a class of 225. One week later, he left home to join the Cleveland farm team in Dubuque, Iowa.

All too soon for Mom and Dad the growing-up years were over.

NEXT SATURDAY IN NEIGHBORS: Tommy John leaves Terre Haute, but the connection with his parents is vital during good times and bad.

Tommy's bright Star

One of the fond memories Tommy John has of his hometown is reading box scores, something he sees degenerating, according to a story in the April 4 issue of Sports Illustrated.

"We took the (Terre Haute) Star because that was the Republican paper and I would religiously study the box scores. I wanted to see if Big Klu had hit a home run, or if Robin Roberts had won his 15th game," he told SI.

If Tommy John is in town May 16 or thereafter, he will have a new morning newspaper in which to study box scores from the day before.

John, Tommy

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

T FEB 1 0 1982

Community Affairs File

Tommy John not expected to be present as Yankees open early season practices

Biography

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The calendar says it is still the middle of winter but the first of baseball's spring training camps gets under way today ... or is that boot camp?

With owner George Steinbrenner cracking the whip in the wake of last year's World Series loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers, the New York Yankees will begin workouts for pitchers and catchers although veteran pitcher Tommy John, who has filed a salary grievance, was not expected to attend.

The Yankees also disclosed that 35-year-old Bobby Murcer, a free agent outfielder-designated hitter, would report next week with the rest of the infielders and outfielders to try and win a job.

Because a team cannot order players to report until March 1, the early workouts are voluntary, although Steinbrenner sent out a letter in December suggesting the early reporting date.

Murcer's contract with the Yankees expired at the end of the World Series and he was not picked by any team in the November re-entry draft. However, Murcer said Tuesday he has accepted Steinbrenner's invitation to camp after talking with the Milwaukee Brewers and Texas Rangers and turning down "a bunch of money" from a Japanese team.

"They (the Yankees) are still interested and I'm still interested," Murcer said. "There's no other team I'd rather play for. Is there another team in America?"

John apparently will not report until his salary dispute is settled or he gets some guarantee of protection in case of injury.

"What happens to me if I break a leg?" the pitcher said from his Franklin Lakes, N.J., home. "That could be resolved easily with some guidelines to protect both sides."

"We feel that when they're in salary arbitration, they're going to be with us one way or another," replied Bill Bergesch, the Yankees' vice president for baseball operations. He said John was "being offered full protection in case of injury. In Tommy's case, we feel we have a contract with him."

John's three-year contract expired at the end of last season but provided for an option year in 1982. John's contends the Yankees' $475,000 salary offer constituted a cut from last season of more than the permissible 20 percent.

If the grievance reaches the hearing stage and the arbitrator rules in John's favor, the left-hander could become a free agent. In the salary arbitration, John reportedly is seeking $950,000 for 1982 and the Yankees have submitted an offer of $800,000.

Vigo County Public Library

John, Tommy

Tommy John files grievance; he could become free agent

Biography T JAN 26 1982

NEW YORK (AP) — A lawyer representing veteran New York Yankees left-hander Tommy John says the pitcher has filed a grievance against the American League team that could result in his becoming a free agent.

Bob Cohen said Monday the grievance, filed last Wednesday, involves the contract offer John received from the Yankees last month. He said the salary proposed by the American League champions constituted a cut from last season's pay that exceeded the maximum 20 percent permitted under the basic agreement between the club owners and the Major League Players Association.

The Yankees, however, are saying the offer was within the limits of the basic agreement.

The dispute apparently is rooted in the fact that each side has a different interpretation of the salary John received under the terms of a three-year contract he signed in 1979 when he came to the Yankees as a free agent. If the matter is not settled, it will go to a hearing before baseball's arbitrator, Raymond Goetz. Should Goetz find the Yankees violated the maximum cut provision of the basic agreement, the 38-year-old John, whose record with the Yankees is 52-26, could be ruled a free agent.

"Tommy wants to stay with the Yankees," Cohen said. "He loves the Yankees and he loves the New York area ... Tommy wants to be with the Yankees the rest of his career. But, apparently George (Yankees owner George Steinbrenner) doesn't want that."

Bill Bergesch, Yankees vice president for baseball operations, said the major league management's Player Relations Committee is handling the matter for the club.

John also has filed for salary arbitration, but the Yankees say the pitcher is not eligible for such arbitration because there is in his contract an option that the club has exercised for the 1982 season.

The players association, on behalf of John, has filed a default notice in the salary arbitration matter. If the Yankees do not agree that John can go to arbitration, and if a subsequent hearing determines John was indeed eligible, he could become a free agent that way, as well.

The case is similar to one involving the Boston Red Sox and players Carlton Fisk and Fred Lynn a year ago. The players contended the Red Sox tendered their 1981 contracts past the Dec. 20 deadline. Lynn was traded to California before the case was heard, but Fisk was declared a free agent and ultimately signed with the Chicago White Sox.

The contract John signed in 1979 reportedly provided for an annual salary of $175,000, a signing bonus of $300,000 and a life-insurance policy

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Sporting AROUND
with Jimmy Claus

WHAT DO YOU do when you're sitting at home with another week's vacation coming up and you receive a hurry up call from the office, saying: "Come on in, we need you?"

Naturally, you come in. After only a week's layoff, the typewriter keys don't stick, not after 26 years in this business, but you are put to a test, assembling a quick column, instead of one seven days from now.

Having been in Chicago last week for the Cubs-Dodgers series, a few remarks about Tommy John are appropriate.

TOMMY JOHN

The future of the 32-year-old John remains in doubt. The Dodgers showed themselves to be a class organization, paying him his $85,000 this season salary when some teams would have given him his unconditional release after his serious arm operation.

Los Angeles Dodgers vice president Al Campanis declares: "No, this isn't charity. It's a gamble he can pitch in 1976." The odds on the gamble are long, however.

John states:

T JUN 4 1975

"There has been improvement . . . I could start pitching batting practice any day now. And the doctors . . . well, now they're saying that I might be able to pitch a few games this year. Last winter they were saying there was no way I'd pitch this year."

Hopeful omens, you might think. But if you knew Tommy John, you would realize the speech was something of a facade.

Change in Philosophy

In the past, he felt himself the master of his destiny. But now, it is not: "I say that I will." Rather, it is: "The doctors say that I may. . . ."

John may be coming to the realization his pitching days are numbered.

A tragedy. He was at the height of his career with a 40-15 record after three seasons with the Dodgers and a .727 victory performance. (Better even than Sandy Koufax.)

Last season, of course, Tommy was 13-3 when his pitching elbow went out. Weeks of rest failed to assuage the problem.

Two Fingers a Problem

Finally he had radical surgery. A tendon was removed from his right forearm and implanted in the ailing left wing.

Now, eight months later, the atrophy is gone from both arms, but the visual effects of the surgery remain: The long scars . . . the distortions of the pitching hand.

"I still can't straighten these two fingers," he said, tugging at the ring finger and little finger of his left hand. "I still can't really pitch until I can use them because they're the fingers that create movement of the ball.

"When I throw with just the first two fingers and thumb, the pitch comes in straight.

"But the two fingers are better than before. After the operation, they were curved under . . . against the palm. And they had no feeling. Now I'm starting to feel a 'pins and needles' sensation in them.

Tommy will also have difficulty pitching until the muscle between his left thumb and forefinger becomes stronger. Right now there is only a hollow . . . a sunken area the size of a half-dollar . . . where that muscle should be.

"The growth of the muscle there, they tell me, is activated by the ulnar nerve (in the elbow)," he said. "And the ulnar nerve—well, it isn't shot. But it's sort of sick.' "

Can Be Seen in Box Seat

In the meantime, Tommy spends his working hours in a box seat behind home plate, pressing the button on that little $1,200 radar "gun" to clock the velocity of the pitchers . . . and other moving objects.

The Dodgers are trying to discover the speed of the average major league fastball. John believes it travels around 85 miles per hour.

At least that's what most of the Dodgers are throwing.

Continued on Page 38, Col. 1.

Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Sporting Around

Continued From Page 37.

T JUN 4 1975

John concludes:

"All of these '100-plus' numbers make good reading, but even a Nolan Ryan can't do that every pitch. The fastest guy I clocked this season was Tom Seaver. He had a high of 95 m.p.h. but, more important, the velocity of his fastball never fell below 90 m.p.h. throughout the game.

"As for me, the other day we took the gun down to the bullpen and clocked my fastball at 78 m.p.h. So maybe I'm not that far away from coming back, after all."

Bio J T APR 18 1975

Sporting AROUND

with Jimmy Claus

Community Affairs File

TOMMY JOHN said from Los Angeles yesterday he hopes to pitch by August if he continues to make the same progress in the future he has in the past.

T APR 18 1975

The 31-year-old southpaw is recuperating from a rare and delicate off-season operation on his left elbow.

The Dodgers don't share John's opimism. Los Angeles pitching coach Red Adams asserts: "If John comes back and pitches halfway decent next year I'll be happy."

The doctors are not taking sides—saying nothing. They claim there is no precedent to John's operation so they have no idea how he will respond.

"Right now, the main thing is throwing every day and running. I throw 15 or 20 minutes and each day I try to get 10 more pitches in. It depends on how I feel, but so far it feels good. I have no pain and I try to spin curve balls and sliders," John said.

TOMMY JOHN

"And I do four to six miles of running every day. I've done a lot of running for years, but now I'm getting my distance up there. I'd like to get the mileage to 10 miles per day."

John was the leading pitcher in he National League with a 13-3 record last season when he hurt his arm against Montreal July 17.

While John, 6-3, 185 pounds, is one of the more physical pitchers in the majors, it had nothing to do with throwing hard.

Recalls Exact Pitch

"I was just trying to throw a sinking fastball to Hal Breeden, trying to get him to hit into a double play," said John.

"And it just snapped. I just straightened up and knew something bad had happened. There wasn't any sense in throwing any more that day."

The injury was a ruptured ligament in his left elbow. It was hopd rest would cure it, but the pain persisted.

An operation was performed by Dr. Frank Jobe on Sept. 25. A tendon from John's right forearm was used in the reconstruction of the elbow, a technique which doctors hoped would get John back quicker than other methods.

"Actually," said John, "I'm farther along now than I thought I'd be. In spring training I thought I'd be lobbing the ball, but I was throwing half speed then. Now, I'm throwing close to full speed, but I haven't really thrown hard yet."

Nerve Stimulator

John receives daily treatment from the Dodgers, including an electronic muscle nerve stimulator and constant massaging of the left elbow by the trainer "to get the feeling back."

"You tend to have problems with the ulnar nerve," John said. "My little finger had been kind of numb, but now I'm getting needles and pins in it so I know the feeling's coming back.

"If I don't do anything foolish and not rush it, I can be back in the lineup before the season is over," he said.

"I'm not so sure," said Adams. "Let's just say I'm realistic and Tommy's very optimistic."

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

B Cog

Community Affairs File

Tommy John Trying Hard

JAN 15 1975

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A doctor says he is pessimistic about ailing Tommy John being able to pitch for the Los Angeles Dodgers this season but adds that John is trying as hard as he can to be able to.

"He is doing anything possible to get ready to pitch again," said Dr. Frank Jobe about the stylish left-hander who kept in shape by jogging at Dodger Stadium and working out with the team on the road long after being sidelined for the last half of the 1974 season.

John had a 13-3 record—best in the National League—when he ruptured the ligament in his left elbow throwing a fastball July 17.

"What we did was take a part of a tendon from his right arm and reconstruct the ligament in his left arm. We know that from similar operations it takes about two years," said Jobe, an orthopedic surgeon who performed the operation.

"It makes me pessimistic that he will be pitching this year," said Jobe, who called the operation "one of the most serious for a pitcher." He added, "I hope he will be pitching next year" — 1976.

"I haven't seen Dr. Jobe since last Friday when he said I was coming along very fine," said John. "I won't throw until about the 25th (of January). That's four months after the surgery, which is about what we planned."

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Ramblin' Reck

By Tom Reck
Star Sports Editor

Tommy John, LA

S JUN 1 1974 Biography Community Affairs File

CHICAGO, Ill. — Tommy John's back in the town where he spent seven baseball seasons pitching for the Chicago White Sox.

He's with the National League now and toils for the Los Angeles Dodgers, currently the best team in baseball so far as records are concerned. T. J., who's in his 11th season in the major leagues, is off to an 8-1 start which he says is his best, "in all phases."

+ + +

Still, in 1968, when he was named to the American League All-Star team, he started 7-0. Being named to the National League All-Star team this summer is a distinct possibility with his record but the Dodger lefty says it's in the "back of his mind" at the present time.

"I'm not going to worry about it. If I'm picked that would be fine. If I'm not, it'll mean Sally and I will have three days off in July. It would be nice to make it in both leagues, of course," he said via telephone Thursday night.

Tommy didn't finish the only game he lost to Philadelphia, a 3-2 game. He had a 2-1 four-hitter going in the ninth inning when he departed with runners at first and second. Mike Marshall, gained in a trade with Montreal, relieved. The Phils used the bunt, putting runners at second and third and then Marshall walked three batters in a row to force in the tying and winning run.

While Manager Walt Alston tries to use Marshall as much as possible, the reliefer thriving on perpetual work, T. J. figures he could have finished that Philly game without help as well as a game with Atlanta, when he had a shutout going, and one against Cincinnati recently. Marshall appeared in 33 of the first Dodger 49 games.

+ + +

He says his best game came against Philadelphia. He took a 1-0 decision in that one. His "worst" games, he says, were against the New York Mets and San Diego, although he didn't figure in the decision in either contest.

He won his eighth Wednesday night in St. Louis, pitching with three days of rest, which he has done more than once this year. Since he worked that one and helped LA take two of three from the Redbirds, he won't go against the Cubs.

"We go back home and play Pittsburgh and I'll start Tuesday night," said John. Pittsburgh and Chicago were the only teams the Dodgers hadn't played up to this weekend.

John, Don Sutton and Andy Messersmith have been the regular starting pitchers for the Dodgers with Doug Rau and Al Downing also working in the rotation. They've all been backed up by a potent LA offense with the Dodgers leading the National League in home runs.

Jim "Toy Cannon" Wynn, picked up from Houston, has been a leader at the plate but he hasn't been the only Dodger bat. "One of our best hitters, Joe Ferguson, just now is starting to come around. He's up to around .270 now but he was below .200 for awhile," says John.

+ + +

"We have a good hitting team all down through the lineup. And with our speed, we steal a lot of bases and 'steal' some close games in the process since a stolen base puts a runner in the position where you don't have to go for the long ball," opined T. J.

In the West Division of the National League, the Gerstmeyer grad says Cincinnati still will be the team to beat and he also figures Houston is in the race to stay. "There's not much difference in those clubs and us," he said.

About the trades that sent Marshall and Wynn to LA, he says, "They're making the boss look like a genius."

In St. Louis, Tommy went against another ex-American Leaguer in Reggie Smith. "He's a much different player now. He's more aggressive at the plate and don't try to pull the ball as much," he said.

He didn't know what to expect in Chicago, with all the rookies on the Cub roster. "I haven't heard of a lot of their guys," he noted.

+ + +

While Tommy's 1974 start has been splendid, the finish could be even better. For one, wife Sally is expecting a baby late in September.

About that same time, T. J. also could be preparing for the National League playoff series if the Dodgers maintain their lofty perch. Then, there would be the possibility of the World Series.

"It would be great," said Tommy.

Off And Running

Distinguished Living Terre Hauteans

Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Bio

Dodgers End Short Slump

John Gets Win As L.A. Romps

TS MAY 26 1974

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Bill Russell's three-run homer capped a six-run first inning and the Los Angeles Dodgers ended a brief two-game slump by routing the San Francisco Giants 9-5 yesterday.

Rick Auerbach and Steve Garvey also homered for the Dodgers while Tommy John (7-1) hurled a seven-hitter.

Auerbach, leading off the first inning against loser Ron Bryant, 1-4, was safe on a throwing error by third baseman Steve Ontiveros. Tom Paciorek and Jimmy Wynn followed with singles, but Auerbach was cut down at the plate on a throw from left fielder Gary Matthews.

But Garvey, who hit his 11th homer of the season in the seventh inning, knocked in the first run with a double, Joe Ferguson walked to load the bases and Ron Cey's ground-rule double made it 3-0.

Ferguson was nailed at the plate on Willie Crawford's grounder to first baseman Dave Kingman, but Russell hit Bryant's next pitch over the left field fence for his fourth homer of the season.

John retired 12 of the first 13 Giant batters before singles by Matthews and Kingman and Chris Speier's two-run double ruined his shutout bid in the fifth.

By winning the first two games of the four-game series, the Giants had climbed to within seven games of the front-running Dodgers. Saturday's loss dropped them eight games back.

LOS ANGELES	ab	r	h	bi	SAN FRANCISCO	ab	r	h	bi
Auerbach 2b	5	1	1	1	Bonds rf	4	0	0	0
Paciorek lf	4	1	1	0	Phillips 2b	4	0	0	0
Wynn cf	5	2	3	0	Maddox cf	4	1	1	0
Garvey 1b	5	2	4	2	Ontiveros 3b	3	0	1	0
Ferguson c	4	0	1	1	Matthews lf	3	1	1	0
Cey 3b	4	1	1	2	Kingman 1b	4	2	2	1
WCrwfrd rf	4	1	1	0	Speier ss	4	1	2	3
Russell ss	4	1	1	3	DvRader c	1	0	0	0
John p	4	0	0	0	Fuentes ph	1	0	0	0
					Boccabila c	2	0	0	1
					Bryant p	0	0	0	0
					Willghby p	0	0	0	0
					DAquisto p	1	0	0	0
					Arnold ph	1	0	0	0
					Sosa p	0	0	0	0
					Thomasn ph	1	0	0	0
					Mcmahon p	0	0	0	0
					Goodson ph	1	0	0	0
Total	39	9	13	9	Total	34	5	7	5

Los Angeles 020 000 100— 9
SanFrancisco 000 021 002— 5

E--Ontiveros. LOB—Los Angeles 6, San-Francisco 4. 2B—Garvey, Cey, Speier. 3B—Speier. HR—Russell (4), Auerbach (1), Garvey (11).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
John (W,7-1)	9	7	5	5	2	3
Bryant (L,1-4)	2-3	5	6	6	1	0
Willoughby	2-3	4	2	2	0	0
DAcquisto	3 2-3	1	0	0	0	3
Sosa	2	1	1	1	2	0
Mcmahon	2	2	0	0	0	1

T—2:19. A—16,392.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
ONE LIBRARY SQUARE
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47807

Community Affairs File

Community Affairs File

Tommy John Suffers First Loss of Season

MAY 6 1974

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abbott and Costello never figured out who's on first and the Los Angeles Dodgers went them on better Sunday—they couldn't figure out who was supposed to be on second.

What happened was that second baseman Dave Lopes and shortstop Bill Russell were both on second at the same time . . . but as fielders, not baserunners. And it so rattled pitcher Tommy John that he made a wide throw, setting the stage for a two-run Philadelphia rally in the ninth inning that lifted the Phillies to a 3-2 triumph over Los Angeles.

The victory enabled the Phillies to sweep the three-game series after they had dropped seven in a row to the Dodgers dating back to last season.

Elsewhere in the National League, the St. Louis Cardinals shaded the Houston Astros 3-1, the Cincinnati Reds downed the Chicago Cubs 5-2, the San Francisco Giants won a doubleheader from the Montreal Expos 4-0 and 8-1, the Atlanta Braves edged the Pittsburgh Pirates 3-2 and the New York Mets split a pair with the San Diego Padres, losing the opener 5-4 and taking the nightcap 6-4 in 10 innings.

John, who had won 10 games in a row — five this season — since the Phillies beat him last Aug. 10, held the Phils to four hits and one unearned run until Mike Schmidt opened the ninth with a single. Greg Luzinski bunted and John threw wild to second.

"Lopes was expecting the bunt and was breaking toward second," said Phils' Manager Danny Ozark. Unfortunately for the Dodgers, so was Russell. "When John turned around and saw two men covering the bag, it confused him," Ozark explained.

Reggie Smith's two-run homer and Bob Gibson's five-hit pitching through eight innings enabled the Cardinals to end a three-game losing streak and snap Houston's five-game victory skein.

Gibson gave up two hits in the second and didn't allow another hit until the sixth in outdueling Larry Dierker. He left after eight innings due to a sore right knee, the one had surgery on last year.

"My control wasn't sharp. The mound seemed flat. My slider kept breaking in front of the plate," said Gibson, unimpressed. "Gibson doesn't throw as hard as he used to, but he's still a helluva pitcher," said Huston Manager Preston Gomez, impressed.

Home runs by Joe Morgan and Johnny Bench sparked Cincinnati. Bench also delivered a run-scoring single, as did Tony Perez. Jack Billingham, who had been sidelined with a slight shoulder strain since April 24, held the Cubs to five hits until the eighth when they scored both their runs on Carmen Fanzone's bases-loaded single.

Mike Caldwell tossed a six-hitter for the Giants in the first game while Tom Bradley pitched a four-hitter in the night cap and San Francisco took advantage of four Montreal errors for seven unearned runs.

Two of the errors came in the fifth inning. Steve Ontiveros got aboard when center fielder Willie Davis dropped his fly ball and Chris Speier was safe on one of three errors by shortstop Larry Lintz. Dave Kingman followed with a three-run homer.

Ron Reed and Tom House teamed on a six hitter and Dave Johnson belted a two-run homer for Atlanta. The Braves scored all their runs in the third on Hank Aaron's double, Johnson's homer, a walk to Ivan Murrell, a single by Reed and Ralph Garr's single.

Losing pitcher Ken Brett homered for one of Pittsburgh's runs.

John Milner's two-run homer in the tenth inning, his third home run in as many games, lifted the Mets to a 6-4 victory in the nightcap. The Mets, who blew a 3-0 lead in the eighth inning, tied it in the ninth on Ken Boswell's pinch RBI single.

In the opener, San Diego's Clarence Gaston doubled home the tying run in the ninth inning against New York relief ace Tug McGraw and then scored the winner on a two-out single by Derrel Thomas. Rusty Staub, who also homered in the second game, and Milner homered as the Mets piled up a 4-0 lead before San Diego pulled within 4-3 on home runs by Dave Winfield and Nate Colbert.

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
ONE LIBRARY SQUARE
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47807

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

S MAY 30 1974

Tommy John Ups Mark

To 8-1, Beats Cards

Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Bio

15. Biography

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — Ron Cey's three-run homer in the sixth inning gave the Los Angeles Dodgers a 5-2 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals Wednesday night and helped lefthander Tommy John become the National League's first eight-game winner.

The Dodgers, trailing 2-1, mounted their winning rally with two out in the sixth when Steve Garvey and Joe Ferguson hit consecutive singles. Cey then followed with his fourth homer of the year.

The game was delayed by rain for 70 minutes in the middle of the eighth inning.

John, who has lost only once, got the win despite allowing eight hits, including five doubles, in 5 1-3 innings. Mike Marshall finished up to get his seventh save of the season.

John, Tommy

Tommy John wins his 4th game

Southpaw discusses his talent and luck

Biography

T APR 25 1979

By JOE SARGIS
UPI Sports Writer

OAKLAND (UPI) — Believe it or not, but Tommy John has a losing record in the American League.

Usually, when someone mentions the stylish left-hander's name the thought is of one of baseball's best pitchers, not one who has less than a .500 record. John pitched for seven years with the Chicago White Sox and in all that time he won 84 games and lost 91.

Going over to the Los Angeles Dodgers, he improved dramatically despite two arm operations, and before playing out his option last year and signing with the New York Yankees, John posted an 87-42 record.

On Tuesday night, John stopped Oakland on five hits and won his fourth game in as many decisions as the Yankees prevailed over the A's 3-1.

As well as John pitched, he might not have come out the winner. His teammates treated him to a lucky run in the sixth and two more runs scored in the ninth on a throwing error by A's reliever Dave Heaverlo.

"I've always said you need some luck as well as talent to win in the big leagues," John said. "I thought I pitched well enough to win, and I'm sure the other guy (John Henry Johnson) felt the same way. But I was the winner."

The victory "improved" John's A.L. record to 88-91, so he's still not a .500 pitcher in the junior circuit.

"I don't know about his record," said A's manager Jim Marshall. "From what I know of John in my mind he is one of the premier pitchers in changing speeds. That's his strength and he knows how to beat you with it.

"He never throws the ball twice at the same speed or with the same break. Against a team such as ours, which is very young and inexperienced, it's very frustrating. But I'm proud of my players. They hung in tough in a game they might have won with a little more luck."

John helped himself tremendously with seven assists and a putout. Three of the assists came on smashes up the middle that seemed like sure base hits.

"I told my players," Marshall said, "not to try to pull the ball on John becaue they would not be able to make contact. I told them to try and hit the ball up the middle. They did and he stopped them even there."

"I'm not doing anything this year that I didn't do the last five or six," said John of his fast start with the Yankees. "I'm still basically a sinkerball pitcher. That's what I have to win with. The players know that's what I'm going to throw, so there is no mystery to my pitching. Location is the big thing with me. If I put the ball where I want I figure I will be successful 80 percent of the time, and my infielders will take care of the other 20 percent."

[illegible] County Public Library

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

Biography

Dodgers had their problems declares veteran southpaw

FEB 21 1979

FORTLAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Free agent pitcher Tommy John reported to the New York Yankees' normally turbulent clubhouse Tuesday, insisting, "I get along with everybody."

The Yankees have yet to undergo their first 1979 squabble — Tuesday, after all, was the reporting date for pitchers and catchers — but the odds are excellent that John won't be involved if and when something develops.

John's last team was the Los Angeles Dodgers, where all was peace and harmony, right, Tommy?

"We had our problems with the Dodgers," said the veteran lefthander, who signed with the Yankees after playing out his option with Los Angeles. "I don't think we got along the way people think we did. Any time you have 25 people living together for six months you're going to have personal conflicts."

However, the only one that made banner headlines was a scrap between first baseman Steve Garvey and pitcher Don Sutton in the Shea Stadium clubhouse last summer.

John donned Yankee pinstripes Tuesday, threw 10 minutes of batting practice and immediately proclaimed his loyalty to his new team.

"When I signed," he said, "I told Mr. Steinbrenner (owner George Steinbrenner), 'You may have just signed the most loyal ballplayer you've ever seen.'

"If those guys want extra batting practice, I'll do it. If it means coming out early and shagging, I'll come out early and shag. If it means staying late, I'll stay late. A pitcher is only as good as the eight players around him."

John said he chose the Yankees over Cincinnati, Kansas City and Milwaukee because of Yankee Stadium's deep left field and the caliber of the ballclub, which has won the last two World Series.

"I like New York," he said. "I'm looking forward to New York. How many guys have had the opportunity to play in the three greatest cities in the U.S. — Chicago, Los Angeles and now New York?"

Tommy John happy to join Yankees

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File

John, Tommy

Community Affairs File

FEB 18

TOMMY JOHN was scheduled to leave Tucson, Ariz., over the weekend for Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to start spring training with the New York Yankees Monday.

Tommy participated in the pro-am part of the Joe Garagiola-Tucson Open tournament now in progress. With Tommy, of course, is his wife, Sally, and their three children: Tami, T.J. III and Travis Kenton.

TOMMY JOHN

The first part of February, the John family moved from California to Franklin Lakes, N.J. They are renting for the time being until their new home, which is being constructed, is finished.

A contractor is building two homes, one for Tommy and a second for himself.

Tommy was among the guests on the Merv Griffin television show Thursday afternoon from Hollywood, Calif. The show had been filmed a couple of weeks earlier.

Also on the program were Steve Garvey, Bucky Dent and Julius Erving.

Tommy told the TV audience, "It was nice to be wanted," referring to the fact the Dodgers were not overly hospitable in his closing season.

Could have kept him

Tommy John, Sr., noted the Dodgers would still have Tommy if they had offered him a three-year "guaranteed" contract at the same amount of money he had received the past three seasons.

The Yankees gave him this guarantee plus a hefty pay hike. "His actual contract is bigger than originally specified and will probably come out in a few weeks," thought Tommy Sr.

After the first 33 days of the American League season are completed, Tommy will have 16 full years in the majors. He spent two seasons with Cleveland, seven with the White Sox and another seven with the Dodgers.

The Yankee starting pitchers this summer will probably be Ron Guidry, Catfish Hunter, Ed Figueroa and Tommy. The top relievers are Rich Gossage and Dick Tidrow.

Sally reports that Tommy has spent much of the winter running and throwing and will report to the Yankees in excellent physical condition.

When would Tommy's parents see him this summer?

Plan K.C. trip

"We have never been to Kansas City, and the Yankees will make two trips there so we may drive there," said Tommy Sr.

The senior John talked about the top major league executives. "Gabe Paul would be my first choice. He was with the Cleveland Indians when Tommy signed as an 18-year-old youngster. He has also been very cordial to us and done everything he could to further Tommy's career.

"This past World Series, he spotted us and took us over and introduced us to George Steinbrenner, the Yankee owner."

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library

John, [illegible]

Sporting AROUND

with Jimmy Claus

OCT 25 1979

TOMMY JOHN hasn't changed much since he pitched for the Gerstmeyer Black Cats. Oh, he's put on some weight, not to mention the years, and has a substantial bank account today but he's still the same friendly person.

All summer he's questioned by writers so he naturally enjoys his peace and quiet when visiting his parents here. Still, Tommy has always been more than cooperative answering questions.

The 37-year-old southpaw, who will be starting his 17th major league season next February when the Yankees open their Florida camp, was not surprised at the last World Series.

He reasoned that Pittsburgh, despite trailing three games to one, must be formidable or they wouldn't be playing in the fall classic.

John simply said that the Baltimore picked the wrong time to go into a hitting slump — the final three games of the World Series.

What about next season for the Yankees?

Tommy quickly cited the need of a hard-hitting catcher to replace Thurman Munson, a good solid centerfielder, and a designated hitter — someone like Greg Lusinski of the Phillies.

New York's mound staff will be built around Ron Guidry, Luis Tiant and Tommy. He readily admitted that if the Yankees could pick up Nolan Ryan of the California Angels, it would go a long ways getting the Yankee express back in the World Series.

Got the breaks

John respects Baltimore but thought many pieces must fall into place for the Orioles to win the American League title again.

For one thing, the Orioles won a lot of one-run games, duplicating this feat will be difficult.

What about the Pirates in the National League?

John reasoned the Bucs must have good years again from Willie Stargell and Dave Parker, plus some of the others, which might be asking too much.

He doubted the Phillies would sustain such a prodigious amount of injuries, particularly to their pitchers.

John felt the Pirates' bullpen, not its starters, were a huge factor in the World Series.

What about the designated hitter in the A.L.? Does he like it?

"It kept me in a lot of ball games," he replied.

How does he rate the Red Sox, Angels and Brewers?

"If you pitch a low-run game and give up just a few hits, you have done extremely well — they have some great hitters ... but they all need pitching."

Hopes Reggie stays

How does he feel about the possibility of Reggie Jackson going to the California Angels?

"I hope it doesn't come about," said Tommy. "It would be difficult to receive what Reggie is worth in return. Don Baylor, Dave Winfield or Al Oliver might be involved in such a deal.

"You can't trade Jackson just for the sake of trading."

What about Billy Martin? How does he get along with the Yankee field boss?

"He's easy to get along with," stated Tommy."

What about the stories Gene Michael might succeed Martin if he encounters more fistic problems. (He allegedly got into trouble again last night outside a bar.)

Tommy knows Michaels but sees no managerial change in the foreseeable future.

What kind of person is owner George Steinbrenner?

"He's for the ball players," stated Tommy.

He acknowledged the Yankees season unofficially ended when Munson was killed in a plane crash.

Players' emotions were never the same.

John in the coming weeks will again organize a charity golf tourney in Yorba Belina, Calif., and later take his family for a vacation to Hawaii.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

John, Tommy Biography (T.H.)

John Chosen For All-Stars

T.H. Sports

T.H. Star 6/28/68

By TOM RECK
Star Sports Editor

Young Tommy John, 24-year-old Chicago White Sox pitcher from Terre Haute, joined a select group of baseball players Thursday.

The "veteran" Chisox hurler was selected by Boston Manager Dick Williams for the American League All-Star team which will play the National League's best in the world-famous Houston Astrodome the night of July 9.

Currently spending two weeks in Alpena, Michigan, at Phelps Collins Air Base as a member of the Indiana Air National Guard on summer maneuvers, John was somewhat surprised at being named to the squad.

"I thought maybe I had a chance but if I didn't make it that was okay, too," he said. "I was going to spend a couple days at home with the folks (Mr. and Mrs. Tom John Sr.) if I wasn't going to play," he said by telephone Thursday afternoon.

As it is, the only undefeated (6-0) major league pitcher with more than five decisions will have little time to prepare for the annual all-star game, which the National League leads and is favored in this summer.

He departed for summer camp last Friday and will be

See TOMMY JOHN
On Page 19, Column 7

Where is rest of art.?

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Terre Haute Americans Place Fifth

T.H. Sports

T. H. Star 8/24/68

Stewart Pitches Final Win

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (Special) — Stanley Stewart batted in the lone run and combined with Nate Mills for a four-hit shutout, as the Terre Haute Americans nipped Hagerstown, Md., 1-0, here Friday.

By virtue of their Friday victory, the Americans finished competition in Williamsport's Little League World Series as fifth place winners. Their overall tourney record is now 12-1.

In Friday's only other game, Nicaragua downed Germany, 3-1, leaving two games to be played in the series. Saturday's finale will pit Richmond, Va., which eliminated Terre Haute 6-2 on Tuesday, and Wakayama, Japan, at 2 p.m. Pennsylvania time, for the world title. Santa Ana, Calif., meets Canada for third place.

Stewart posted his seventh victory of the tourney against one defeat, but needed Mills' help in a shaky fourth frame.

Tim Edwards, starting leftfielder for the Americans, led off the top of the first with a walk and advanced to second base on a Mills' single. Stewart then ripped a double into the left centerfield hole, scoring Edwards.

Mills was thrown out on the same play as he tried to take third base. Stewart was left stranded on third base, after Hagerstown starter Mike Brashears fanned the last batter.

The shaky fourth frame for Stewart was started with one out—when Stewart walked two consecutive batters and threw a wild pitch, which put men on second and third.

Stewart managed to retire the next batter with a strikeout, and record an 0-2 count on the final batter, before manager Don Rowlett deemed it necessary to bring in Mills for the save.

Rowlett informed The Star, "The Hagerstown batter, Larry Karn, had fouled off several pitches, but most of all I feared the wild pitch." He added, "I wanted to use Stanley (Stewart) and Nate (Mills) both in our final game anyway."

Mills took the mound and immediately recorded a strike out, to end the threat.

Then, in the fifth, it looked as if the Eastern contingent would get to Mills, as Stan Jones singled and Mike Small was hit by a Mills pitch, before Mills could get his first out of the inning. Two quick outs followed, however, and the side was retired.

With Terre Haute's season now completed, according to Rowlett, "The boys are looking forward most to coming home. All the parents have gone now, and they've (the Americans) been away a long time."

"After watching tomorrow's (Saturday's) championship game," Rowlett told The Star, "we'll leave, by bus, for Washington, D.C., and not return home until Tuesday."

Clubs	R	H	E
Terre Haute	100 000	1	5 1
Hagerstown, Md	000 000	0	4 0

Stewart, Mills (4), and Phillips, Brashears and Small.

Tommy John Back

APR 28 1976
Biography Com

LOS ANGELES — Tommy John didn't finish the game Monday night but Terre Haute's baseball major leaguer returned to the win column nonetheless as he pitched the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 7-1 victory over Pittsburgh.

T. J. went seven inning and worked to two batters in the eighth before being relieved by Mike Marshall in gaining credit for his first mound victory since July 2, 1974. Since then, he has basically had a new elbow put in his pitching arm and worked his way back into the Dodger rotation.

Some said it never would be done. Tommy never had any doubts about it and set his mind to that effect. His return to action under this exact type situation is unprecedented.

The Gerstmeyer grad had started two games earlier this year, losing 3-0 to Atlanta as he went five innings and gaining no decision in hurling seven scoreless innings against Houston with the Dodgers losing that one in 16 innings, 1-0.

"I thought I threw harder against Houston but Joe Ferguson says I never threw harder than I did Monday night. He caught me in both games and was talking about 1973 and 1974 too," T. J. said by telephone Tuesday afternoon.

While he's started three games, John missed another start because of the second rainout in Dodger Stadium history earlier in the month. Because of that delay in his comeback, John went something like 12 days without pitching.

He pitched a victory against California in exhibition and then waited until the Atlanta game April 16 to make his regular-season debut. In that one, he had a shutout for four innings before giving up two hits and then allowing a home run by Darrel Evans in the fifth.

"That was the only bad pitch of the five innings . . . it hit the wrong spot," he recalled. "You can't afford to do that with Evans," he said.

Tommy said the delay between starts hurt because it "takes awhile to get into the groove" and his control wasn't what it should have been against the Braves. "I was ready to do after beating the Angels. I really threw well the last three or four innings against them," he said.

Actually, it was only fitting that Tommy return to the victory column in his home ball park. It was in LA Stadium when he incurred the injury that sidelined him for nearly two years.

A crowd of 23,374 was on hand and greeted Tommy, as he recalled it, with applause as he completed warmups and again when he took the mound. When he left in the eighth, he was given a standing ovation.

"It was really neat," he said. Prior to the game, he said he was afraid he might overthrow. "That would have been the worst thing I could have done. I didn't want to be too anxious," he said.

His only control problems and only two walks of the game came in the second when he threw "eight or nine straight" balls and issued gratis trips to Richie Hebner and Duffy Dyer. He got out of that jam with a grounder.

In the fifth, Willie Stargell and Al Oliver were on base with hits and none out. A double play ended that threat.

In the eighth, he actually could have gotten out of the inning and the game without allowing a run. Frank Taveras led off for the Bucs with a single and then Rennie Stennett hit one to left field and a fan reached over the wall and touched it.

The ump called it dead ball and the runners were put at second and third. However, the Pirates protested that Taveras could have scored on the hit and the run was allowed. It all took about 15 minutes and Manager Walk Alston took Tommy out because of the delay.

"I don't think Taveras would have scored. I don't think they would have sent him home," T. J. said. That run, however, ended a string of 14 scoreless innings. His ERA, though, is a fine 1.89, possibly best on the Dodger staff.

He next will start Saturday night when the Dodgers take on the St. Louis Cardinals. Between now and then, he will run, throw 10 or 15 minutes Wednesday and then rest until Saturday.

"Some say you should rest and throw close to the day of your next start. I have found it's better to throw midway between games and be more rested for the next start," John said.

Otherwise, he's taking routine whirlpool work between starts. All the other exercise and what-have-you connected with his comeback work is done and gone. And his arm feels fine.

"There is absolutely no pain, no soreness at all," John said Tuesday.

The Dodgers, in winning Monday, took their third victory in four games, and are looking more like the contenders they're supposed to be in the National League West Division race. Tommy said too many runners were being left on base in the early going.

"Steve Garvey and Ron Cey are hitting the ball better and are producing as they will through the season. They only had six RBI between them before last night. Some fans were getting panicky out here but it's early," he said.

At the same time, he said the absence of Davey Lopes is hurting the ball club because of his offensive ability. "He's a valuable cog in our attack. It's a week-to-week thing with him," T. J. said. Lopes is out with rib cage problems.

"It's the type injury you can't do anything about . . . can't tape. It just takes time to heal" John said.

In the meantime, Don Sutton, Doug Rau and Tommy John will be mainstays in the Dodger scheme of things as they challenge Cincinnati, San Diego, Atlanta, Houston, and San Francisco in the West.

PITTSBURGH	ab	r	h	bi	LOS ANGELES	ab	r	h	bi
Taverasss	4	1	1	0	Buckner lf	4	1	3	1
Stennett 2b	4	0	2	1	Sizemore 2b	3	0	1	0
AOliver cf	4	0	1	0	Haler rf	4	0	0	0
Stargell 1b	4	0	1	0	Motasch	3	1	0	1
Zisk lf	4	0	1	0	Burke pr	0	0	0	0
DParker rf	4	0	0	0	Garvey 1b	5	2	2	2
Hebner 3b	3	0	0	0	Cey 3b	5	1	1	2
Dyer c	3	0	0	0	Ferguson c	3	0	1	0
Medich p	1	0	1	0	HCruz cf	4	0	1	1
WRobnsn ph	1	0	1	0	Russell ss	3	2	2	0
Tekulve p	0	0	0	0	John p	2	0	0	0
Helmsph	1	0	0	0	Marshall p	0	1	0	0
Hernandz p	0	0	0	0					
Demery p	0	0	0	0					
Total	33	1	8	1	Total	34	7	12	7

Pittsburgh 000 000 010— 1
Los Angeles 311 000 02x— 7

E—Taveras 2, Stargell. DP—Los Angeles 2. LOB—Pittsburgh 7, Los Angeles 10. 2B—Garvey 2. HR—Cey (1). SB—Buckner. S—John, Sizemore, Buckner.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Medich (L,1-2)	4	9	5	5	2	1
Tekulve	2	1	0	0	0	3
Hernandez	1 1-3	2	2	2	2	0
Demery	2-3	0	0	0	0	0
John (W,1-1)	7	8	1	1	2	0
Marshall	2	0	0	0	0	2

Balk—Medich. T—2:32. A—23,374.

Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Tommy John
Community Affairs File

Biography Community Affairs File

TOMMY JOHN OF TERRE HAUTE, pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers, has been named Vigo County's Honorary Chairman for the 29th National Children's Dental Health Week. The theme for 1977 is Smile America. Approximately 98 per cent of all Americans suffer from tooth decay. With a dental disease problem of this size, prevention is the only possible answer. John received a citation from Dr. Fred Simmons, left, chairman for the Western Indiana Dental Society's participation in National Children's Dental Health Week. Mrs. Clarence Koenig is chairman of the special week's observance for the League of Terre Haute, and Mrs. Bruce Danner, right, also of the League, is publicity chairman for this annual event.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library

John promised his wife home run

Distinguished Thanteans

He never really expected blow

T AUG 9 1977

By JIM COUR
UPI Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — In 1968, Oakland A's Manager Bob Kennedy walked the No. 8 Chicago White Sox hitter to pitch to Tommy John. John then clouted a three-run homer off Catfish Hunter and eventually won the game 5-2.

That was John's last home run. Until Monday night, that is.

In the opener of a four-game series with the Cincinnati Reds, John belted his first homer in nine seasons and pitched a two-hitter as the Dodgers snapped a four-game losing streak with a 4-0 victory.

It was the veteran left-hander's fifth big league homer and first in the National League, and it came on a night he notched his seventh straight victory to improve his record to 13-4.

"I've been promising my wife a home run ever since I came back," smiled John. "But, of course, I never expected to hit one. It's just someehing that happens.

"The home run was nice but my pitching ranks higher in my book because the Reds are such a great hitting club. Any time you beat the Reds, you know you've done a great job.

"The Reds have a lot of team and individual pride. We know they're not going to quit. They're going to battle us down to the wire and not let us get away."

With his 32nd career shutout and second of the season, the wily 34-year-old put the Dodgers 12 ½ games in front of the two-time defending World Series champions with 51 games remaining.

He retired the last 16 Reds in order Dave Concepcion with two out in the fourth inning. George Foster singled in the second and Ken Griffey doubled in the third for Cincinnati's hits.

John had a 10-10 record last season after being out a season and a half with a ruptured ligament in his left elbow.

After being swept in a weekend series at shiladelphia, the Dodgers were particularly happy with the timing of John's performance that gave him an 8-1 career record against the Reds.

"The Reds," said Dodger skipper Tommy Lasorda, "are an outstanding ball club. For us to be that much ahead of a club like them at this point is a tremendous accomplishment.

"Winning the first game of a series like this means an awful lot for us. But we still have a long way to go."

"I don't know why I've been so successful against the Reds," John remarked. "It's just one of the freaks of baseball that one pitcher will pitch well against a certain ball club and then maybe he can't beat a club he should.

"Against the Reds, you have to psyche yourself up to pitch against them. You know you hae to pitch well to beat them."

John lowered his ERA to 2.74. In his last 73 innings, he's given up just 12 runs for a 1.48 ERA in that span.

After John's homer in the third off Paul Moskau, now 2-3, Bill Russell doubled and Reggie Smith slugged his 20th homer of the season to make it 3-0. The Dodgers' fourth run came in the sixth on a single by Ron ey, Steve Garvey's infield out and a single by Rick Monday.

(over)

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File

NO. 1—Los Angeles pitcher Tommy John gets a glad hand from the Dodgers batboy as Cincinnati catcher Johnny Bench watches the lefthander cross the plate after socking his first National League home run in the third inning of last night's Reds-Dodgers game in L.A. John limited the Reds to two hits in recording a 4-0 shutout. UPI

John, Tommy

4-28-77-S

Ramblin' Reck

By Tom Reck
Star Sports Editor

Community Affairs File

Tommy John was accorded a special honor during Thursday night's Chamber of Commerce dinner at Hulman Center and he talked baseball with Kiwanians during the day, taking a break from speech making and award receiving in other parts of the country.

Monday, he was recognized for his pitching comeback—recording a 10-10 mark with the Los Angeles Dodgers after missing about a year and a half and undergoing elbow surgery in 1974. He was cited in St. Louis.

He has been accorded similar honors by United Press International, *The Sporting News* and has been declared winner of The Hutch Award, given in memory of the late Fred Hutchinson, who managed the Cincinnati Reds.

He will be in Pittsburgh next month for the Hutch ceremonies.

Looking further, the Dodger southpaw feels the National League West ball club will challenge the Cincinnati Reds this season more than last. For one, he says the Dodgers solidified themselves with a "steal" of Rick Monday from the Chicago Cubs, along with Mike Garman, and obtaining Johnny Oates from Philadelphia.

"Monday will be a key player with his long ball and ability to drive in runs. Garman has a weight problem but Tommy LaSorda will see to that," T. J. said.

LaSorda will be managing the Dodgers for the first time, succeeding Walt Alston after serving as coach. "He's a motivator and should be worth some extra wins," John noted.

Too, he felt the Reds will miss Tony Perez, traded to Montreal. "He was always good for 90 runs batted in and the Reds will miss those runs. I would much rather pitch against Dan Driessen and take my chances, than against Perez," John said, referring to the player who figures to take Perez's place in the lineup.

He feels other clubs in the West will be stronger but doesn't think any of them "are in the same class" as the Dodgers and Reds.

Asked about free agents in baseball, causing concern to owners and fans, T. J. said he would have been tempted to go

T. J. Figures Dodgers Will Make Race Of It This Season

Community Affairs File

1-28-77-S

that route five years ago. "It would have been foolish not to with the money they are paying," he said.

He feels many got more than they were worth, citing Reggie Jackson who was "overpaid" in his deal with the New York Yankees. He feels longer contracts, similar to the practice followed in pro football, will be the rule in baseball.

As for goals, now that he has achieved his comeback in spite of formidable odds, T. J. says he would like to pitch 20 years. He begins his 13th season this year at the age of 33. "Only very few play that long," he noted.

When he's done as a player, he says he would like to coach college baseball—in a warm climate. "Baseball gets in your blood and there are only so many managing and coaching jobs in the pros," he said.

He says he keeps in shape mainly by jogging and swimming as much as possible. He also said he has worked with a steel ball to strengthen his arms and hands since the early 1960s.

T. J. also plays some golf and plays it well. He took part in the Bing Crosby Pro-Am Tourney last week, being paired with pro Jim Dent, finishing 29 under par in the event. President Gerald Ford competed in the tourney along with such other celebs as Johnny Bench of Cincinnati.

Looking back at his comeback year, he said the first part of the season was one of "learning to pitch all over again and finding out what I could do". In the last half, he said he pitched as well as he ever has.

Easily, his mark could have been better than 10-10 with seven no decisions as he was taken out of close games the Dodgers went on to win. Alston took precaution about "overworking" Tommy much of the year.

He says he achieved his comeback through "confidence in himself" and "faith in God", never worrying about it or thinking he would not pitch again. "I figured if the Good Lord didn't have it in mind for me to pitch, he would have something else for me to do," John noted.

ON THE CUFF—T. J. recalled signing with Cleveland in 1961, using advice of his father, Tom John Sr., and noting that the Indians had only one other lefthander, Sam McDowell, in their organization at that time. He went from Cleveland to the Chicago White Sox and knew ahead of time that the Chisox would trade him in 1971.

"I figured if I was going to be traded, I would go to the National League and I was hoping it would be to the New York Mets or Dodgers. My father says going from the White Sox to the Dodgers was like moving from a Chevrolet to a Cadillac. The Dodgers have a great organization," he said.

The Kiwanians are sponsors of the Key Clubs in town (Don Keegan, correspondent for The Star at South, is an officer in his school's). T. J. recalled being a Key Clubber in high school days at Gerstmeyer.

(Many younger fans may not know that T. J. once held the county basketball scoring mark of 47 points, eclipsing the record then held by Arley Andrews.) Before he was traded to the Dodgers, T. J. said he thought he would go to Atlanta or Pittsburgh.

The year he was hurt, the Dodgers competed in the World Series, thanks in part to his 13-3 start, and he regrets missing playing in the fall classic. He'd like to have that chance some day, "hopefully this year" he added.

In LA, he had a minor operation in 1972, then had his best season at 16-7 in 1973 before being sidelined at 13-3 in 1974. He has a lifetime ERA of 2.98. It has to be one of the best among active pitchers.

Cincinnati and Los Angeles will play their usual 18 games this summer. The Dodgers will be in Cincy April 18 and 20, June 24-25-26 and September 9-10-11.

Wife Sally joined Tommy here Wednesday. Daughter Tami stayed in the West with her maternal grandmother. Moving from St. Louis Monday, to Terre Haute, T. J. will head for Canada and a speaking engagement Friday.

T. J. AND DAD—Tommy John was honored at the Area Chamber of Commerce dinner Thursday and spoke to Kiwanis at lunch. With him, from the left, were Tom John Sr. and Kiwanis President Richard Becker. (Photo by Kadel)

Community Affairs File

John, Tommy

Community Affairs File

T MAR 2 1977

Southpaw Is Unhappy With One-Year Contract

Distinguished Living T. Hautteans

VERO BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Tommy John, who made a great comeback last year, may play out his option because of a contract dispute.

John was expected in the Dodgers' training camp today and sign a one-year contract estimated at $100,000. But he was not happy with a one-year contract, having sought a three-year agreement.

John, contacted at his Yorba Linda, Calif., home, said Tuesday the Dodgers told him "they are afraid my arm will go out again."

John had surgery two years ago to repair torn ligaments, but came back successfully and recorded a 10-10 record and an earned run average of 3.09 last season. He started 31 games and pitched 207 innings. j

Now, he said, he was prepared to play out his option over the contract dispute.

"I'm signing the first contract they sent me," he said. "I wanted a three-year contract and they offered me two. 'Fine,' I said. 'I'll sign for X number of dollars.' The club said no.

"Every time I was asked to start (last year), I started. I am not asking for the moon. I just want a fair, reasonable salary comparitive to (Don) Sutton, (Charlie) Hough and (Doug) Rau—the guys I have to pitch with."

He said the Dodger used his recuperating arm "as an excuse last year. My arm is healthy. It feels super."

Meanwhile, at the Dodgers camp, new Manager Tom Lasorda thought that infielder Ted Martinez looked distinctly un-Dodger-like, so he expelled him from the team meeting.

Martinez returned in a few moments—sans beard—and Lasorda welcomed him back. In his first day on the job, Lasorda said, "I just told them what I am expecting of them and gave them a few rules I expect them to follow."

One of the rules is no beards.

"That's the way it's going to be," Lasorda said. "I told our guys they had to represent the Dodgers off the field as well as on it."

In his first day of spring training as Dodger manager, Lasorda sent 35 of his 38 roster players through drills Tuesday. Lasorda, replacing Walt Alston, who retired last year after 23 years at the helm, worked his players for nearly five hours.

Besides John, two players remain unsigned—outfielder Glenn Burke and catcher Ellie Rodriguez. urke is hospitalized in California with hepatitis and Rodriguez is sidelined with a broken collarbone, suffered while playing winter ball.

REFERENCE
Vigo County Public Libr
DO NOT CIRCULATE

JOHN, Tommy
1-28-77-I

Sporting AROUND with Jimmy Claus

Distinguished Living Terre Haute
Community Affairs File

TOMMY JOHN LOVES his mother and father dearly but after braving the elements here for a few days he is anxious to leave Terre Haute and return to his home in Orange County outside Los Angeles and near Disneyland.

(There is a possibility of a chill factor of 60 below here tonight.)

"I have a good friend in the car business here," chuckled Tommy. "I talked with him just today (Thursday) and told him he could sell cars just as well in short sleeve sports shirts as well as in the snow around here and he would be a lot more comfortable."

Ironically, Tommy and his wife, Sally, will not go straight home but instead will fly into even worse weather.

They were scheduled to leave the Indianapolis airport this morning for Alberta, Canada. "I have a Father-Son banquet speaking engagement and then we'll go home for a while," explained Tommy.

Tommy has turned into a good speaker, coming across well at the Kiwanis Club luncheon Thursday in the Knights of Columbus Building.

Clears His Conscious

He told one story before his official appearance that shows what a crazy world we indeed live in.

"I have a friend on the West Coast in the jewelry business," said Tommy. "He was robbed of a very expensive watch.

"The robber came back a few days later and said he had a guilty conscious and wanted to return the watch. The owner was emotionally moved and said no charges would be made."

Tommy continued: "The robber then said he admired the watch so much, he wanted to buy it. The jewelry was naturally pleased to accommodate him.

The new customer put down $100 on the watch and charged the remainder of the amount, which was quite large, to his Bank America card.

Can you guess what happened?
The fellow's credit card was no good and the jeweler was taken again.

"I guess the fellow felt better going this route rather than breaking in and stealing the watch," reflected John.

Between $15 and 20 Million

Tommy's dad was standing nearby and commented, "Ask him what the Dodgers grossed last year. I'd like to know myself."

The question was put to Tommy who graciously replied: "I'm not sure of the exact figures but it was between $15 and $20 million. That's gross now, not net."

The O'Malleys are brilliant business men. The dad, of course, makes the final decisions but the son runs much of the business now.

Tommy John Sr., who has made several trips to see his son play in Dodger Stadium remarked, "Everything is owned and run by the O'Malleys, from the stadium to the concessions to the parking lot. You name it. They will get you somewhere."

Tommy and his dad both praised the Dodger organization for its efficiency and compassion. They didn't have to pay Tommy for the entire year and one-half he was out of baseball after surgery but did.

Poor Choice of Front Office Personnel

"I think that's what you will find is wrong with the Chicago Cubs. They have not taken top baseball people to run their organization.

"You take my friend in the car business here. He is successful because he knows the car business and hires people with a keen insight in the business.

"The Cubs have not done this. They have hired people like Salty Saltwell, a concession man, to be their general manager.

"I think you will find, however, if they leave their new general manager alone, Bob Kennedy, he will do an excellent job. But you must stay with the top baseball people.

"The Cubs have finished way down in the standings for many years which means they have high draft picks among the young prospects after the season is completed. Still, the Cubs have not come up with good players.

"I think this tells you something about their management. Now you take the Cincinnati Reds, for instance. They are successful, like the Dodgers, because they have top baseball people in the front office."

Tommy was asked his favorite catcher.

"One of the best games I pitched last season, Ted Sizemore was the catcher," he recalled. "He did some catching in his minor league career." Sizemore, of course, is known as an infielder in the big leagues.

Who was the most valuable Dodger among the regulars? First baseman, Steve Garvey?

"No, I would say shortstop Bill Russell," answered John.

How Pension Works

What about the baseball pension? One member of the Kiwanis Club asked him to explain some of the intricacies.

Tommy commented that a player must have four years in the majors to be eligible. He could start collecting his pension at age 45.

Naturally the more playing years and the longer you wait, the bigger the pension.

Tommy is starting his 14th season with the Dodgers and said at age 50 he could start drawing $1,400 a month. Leo Durocher and Paul Richards, for example, have 20 years behind them and draw the maximum or $2,000 a month.

Tommy got along fine with Walt Alston, a true gentleman. "He was a close personal friend of Johnny Wooden," he noted. "Gene Bartow, the UCLA coach now, is an avid Dodger fan."

"Our new manager, Tommy Lasorda, is a great 'motivator.' He is aggressive and a battler, much like Eddie Stanky."

Before departing, Tommy was asked about his family. "We have one child with another on the way," he happily stated.

1-28-77-T

Community Affairs File

TOMMY JOHN HONORED — Tommy John, the Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher who was named National League comeback player of the year last season for returning to the game after undergoing radical surgery to repair the damaged elbow above his pitching hand, was honored by the Terre Haute Area Chamber of Commerce last night for his ambassadorial work in promoting the community. Presenting a plaque drawn by D. Omer (Salty) Seamon to the pitcher is Russell Howard (top), advertising director of the Tribune-Star Publishing Co. Inc. John and his father Tom John Sr. flanked Herm Rassel earlier in the day at the Kiwanis Club luncheon in the K. of C. building. House of Photography and Strausburg Photos

John, Tommy

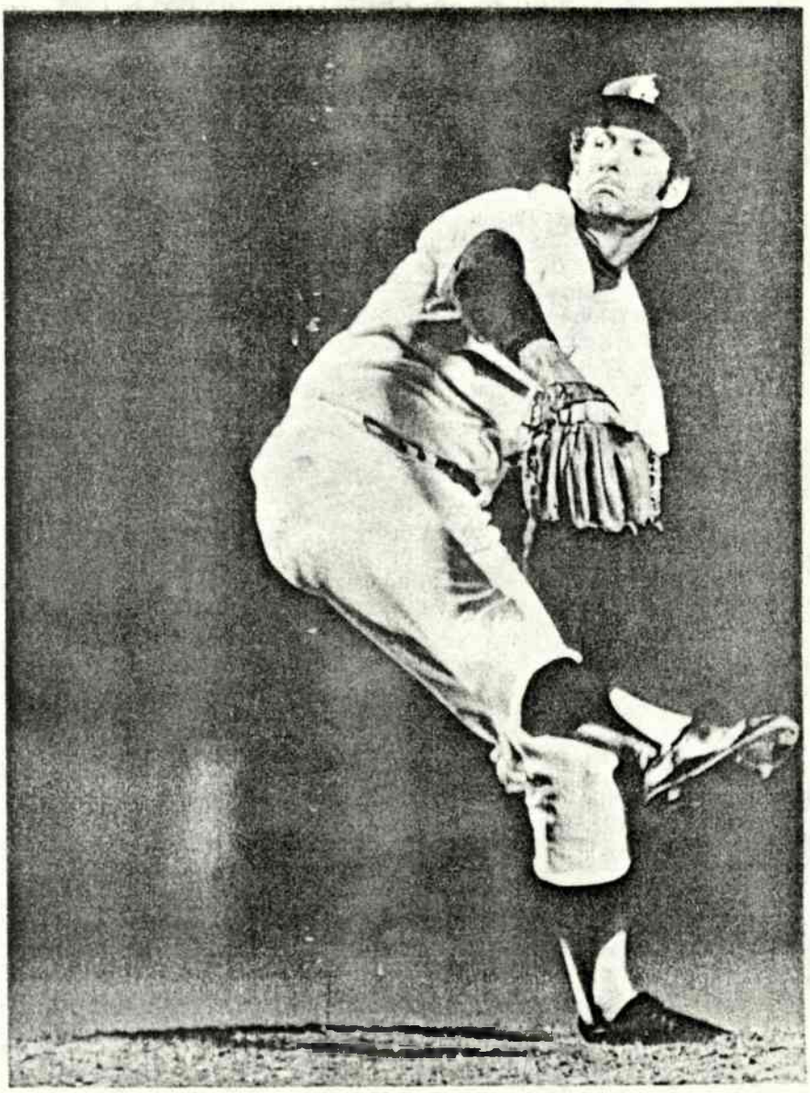
Tommy John credits God for comeback

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library

Biography

Sp AUG 6 1977

by Pat Verser



Each spring and summer, youngsters in Terre Haute and across the country join school and youth league baseball teams. As they play, many of these youngsters dream of signing with a major league team and becoming part of an uniquely American institution.

For most of them, their dreams will remain just that, but for Los Angeles pitcher Tommy John the dream came true. As he grew up in Terre Haute, Tommy and his father worked out together, with his father inventing devices to help improve Tommy's pitching skills. He played on Little League, school and American Legion teams and, although he was offered many athletic scholarships when he graduated from high school, Tommy decided to make his dream come true and signed with the Cleveland Indians. Tommy John had achieved the goal many youngsters hope for.

Then, in 1974, it appeared as if Tommy John's dream was coming to an end. More than 20 years of throwing a baseball had taken its toll, resulting in severe muscle, ligament and nerve damage to his pitching arm. As Tommy described it in a recent conversation before a Sunday afternoon game at Dodger Stadium, "I didn't know what had happened. I didn't know it was as serious as it was. . . After Dr. Jobe (the Dodger orthopedist) told me I was going to have to have another operation (John had undergone surgery for a bone chip in his elbow several years earlier) I wasn't too thrilled about it . . . he told me if you don't have an operation you'll never pitch again; and if you do, you might pitch again."

Then, in 1974, it appeared as if Tommy John's dream was coming to an end. More than 20 years of throwing a baseball had taken its toll, resulting in severe muscle, ligament and nerve damage to his pitching arm. As Tommy described it in a recent conversation before a Sunday afternoon game at Dodger Stadium, "I didn't know what had happened. I didn't know it was as serious as it was. . . After Dr. Jobe (the Dodger orthopedist) told me I was going to have to have another operation (John had undergone surgery for a bone chip in his elbow several years earlier) I wasn't too thrilled about it . . . he told me if you don't have an operation you'll never pitch again; and if you do, you might pitch again."

What was it like to face the fact a career he had worked for so long might be over? Surprisingly, Tommy says it wasn't as much of an emotional crisis as one would expect it to be, and he credits his religious beliefs for his acceptance of what might happen. "At the time I felt Tommy John was going to pitch only if the Good Lord wanted him to pitch again, and so I just decided it would leave it in His hands and, if I would pitch, I would . . . and if the Lord didn't see fit, then there was something else I was going to be doing besides playing baseball. I said I really can't lose, and that was my whole philosophy . . . as a result, the emotional part was very easy to deal with."

Dr. Jobe operated on Tommy's arm, performing a complicated procedure involving weeks and he spent the entire 1975 season on the Dodgers' disabled players list, working with head Dodger trainer Bill Buhler to build up the muscles and increase circulation in his damaged arm.

The results of their hard work were apparent in 1976 as Tommy returned to active duty with the Dodgers, posting a 10-10 record and receiving the Comeback of the Year Award. For Tommy John the dream wasn't over.

Tommy's devotion to his career includes working out year around to keep in shape. During the season on days when he is not pitching Tommy practices. "I will throw 15 minutes maybe, just enough to where you feel like you really start to throw the ball good . . . and you really pop a good curve ball, a slider and a fastball. When you get to that point, you just back off because you don't want to leave it down there." Tommy -- who describes himself as "a young 34" -- also keeps in shape by jogging 7 or 8 miles frequently and by swimming in the off season, as well as practicing pitching against his back yard fence.

Described by Dodger teammate Steve Garvey as a person who "does as much as he can both on and off the field to help his profession", Tommy works during the offseason as a pitching coach with a local state college team and also plans to work with San Diego Padres coaches Roger Craig and Bob Skinner on a winter baseball camp. John owes something besides his career to baseball. He met his wife, the former Sally Simmons of Plainfield, through friends on the coaching staff at Indiana State University while he was working out there. (The John's have a daughter Kimberly, age 3, and are expecting their second child soon.)

weeks and he spent the entire 1975 season on the Dodgers' disabled players list, working with head Dodger trainer Bill Buhler to build up the muscles and increase circulation in his damaged arm.

The results of their hard work were apparent in 1976 as Tommy returned to active duty with the Dodgers, posting a 10-10 record and receiving the Comeback of the Year Award. For Tommy John the dream wasn't over.

Tommy's devotion to his career includes working out year around to keep in shape. During the season on days when he is not pitching Tommy practices. "I will throw 15 minutes maybe, just enough to where you feel like you really start to throw the ball good . . . and you really pop a good curve ball, a slider and a fastball. When you get to that point, you just back off because you don't want to leave it down there." Tommy -- who describes himself as "a young 34" -- also keeps in shape by jogging 7 or 8 miles frequently and by swimming in the off season, as well as practicing pitching against his back yard fence.

Described by Dodger teammate Steve Garvey as a person who "does as much as he can both on and off the field to help his profession", Tommy works during the offseason as a pitching coach with a local state college team and also plans to work with San Diego Padres coaches Roger Craig and Bob Skinner on a winter baseball camp. John owes something besides his career to baseball. He met his wife, the former Sally Simmons of Plainfield, through friends on the coaching staff at Indiana State University while he was working out there. (The John's have a daughter Kimberly, age 3, and are expecting their second child soon.)

One thing which pleases Tommy is that his father, Thomas E. John, Sr., of Terre Haute, is able to see his son play. According to Tommy, "He was the only teacher I ever had in baseball until I got into pro ball. He'd work out with me all the time. . . I got where I am through the hard work of my dad." Tommy's parents attend Dodger games both in Los Angeles and on the road and earlier this year were able to watch their son win a game against Cincinnati pitcher Tom Seaver.

Tommy also spends must of his free time working with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Campus Crusade for Christ. "I go out and speak to as many churches and youth groups as I can and just tell them where I stand with the Lord. The way the world is now a lot of people will look up to a baseball or basketball or football player if he comes out and takes a stand like this."

Tommy John wasn't pitching that Sunday afternoon recently as he talked about his career, but it didn't matter. Tommy had already won a bigger personal victory in his career.

John, Tommy

Biography

5 OCT 4 1977

In Los Angeles Tuesday night, it won't be a case of 'local boy makes good' as it will be another chapter written in a book many felt would never be finished.

Terre Haute's Tommy John makes his first appearance in a post-season baseball game since moving up to the majors in 1963. He never had a chance with Cleveland or the Chicago White Sox, one reason being playoffs weren't part of the post picture then. In Los Angeles, the only other time the Dodgers have made the playoffs (and the World Series for that matter) since he's been with the National League West champs, he was otherwise occupied.

T. J.

He was preparing for surgery, surgery that put a new elbow in his pitching arm in 1974. He'd won 13 of 16 games before July 17 to help put the ball club in the playoffs, which they won before being beaten by Oakland in the Series. He missed the following year, as most fans know now, but traveled with the ball club and worked to come back.

He did that last year and had a 10-10 record as he won Comeback Player of the Year and Hutch Award honors. Then came this year with a new manager in Los Angeles in Tommy Lasorda and a Tommy John who didn't have a fantastic spring training. In fact, he recalled recently, at the start of the season, "I was 2-2 and my ERA was something around 9."

At the end of the season, it was a different matter. He finished 20-7 with an ERA of 2.76, ranking in the top five in percentage and ERA both among starters. He led the league in both at one time and was in the top 10 most of the last half of the year.

He was called the Dodger stopper by he effervescent Lasorda, who guided the LA team into a big lead in the NL West and never led the perennial champs from Cincinnati get close. T. J. was one reason as other Dodger hurlers faltered at one time or another. That he won four of five games against the Reds, of course, was a difference of eight games in itself.

It was only fitting that Tommy pitched the NL West clincher against San Francisco and Lasorda then said T. J. would start the playoffs. And that's just what Terre Haute's own will do Tuesday in Dodger Stadium.

Terre Haute and the Wabash Valley have had their share of major leaguers and pro athletes. Right now, though, Tommy John carries those colors as he makes his first post-season pitching start. Hopefully, it won't be the last, either of this season or in the seasons to come. T. J. proves "nice guys" don't always finish last.

TOMMY JOHN'S MAJOR LEAGUE STATISTICS

Department	G	IP	W	L	Pct.	H	SO	BB	ERA
American League	268	1606	84	91	.480	1482	962	501	3.00
National League	118	765	50	25	.667	714	402	193	2.94
Majors(Pre-1977)	386	2371	134	116	.536	2196	1364	694	2.98
1977 Figures	30	220	20	7	.700	225	124	50	2.78

It'll be Homecoming at Union High School in Dugger Saturday with a parade and the works as the Bulldog football team meets North Daviess in the afternoon. North Central and Sullivan will renew their old county rivalry Friday night.

Meanwhile, unbeaten teams have big ones on the agenda. Robinson meets a ranked Charleston ball club in an Apollo Conference clash while Martinsville is at nearby Casey in a key Little Illini contest Friday. In Indiana, Brazil shoots for 7-0 against Edgewood Friday at home. The Mustangs are usually tough in football.

All three Vigo County football teams are at home Friday. North takes on a sound Bloomington South team, South entertains South Vermillion (winner of three in a row now) and West Vigo is host to Mt. Vernon. The season just has four weeks to run, if you can imagine that, especially since baseball isn't over yet by a long shot.

In the playoffs, we'll go with Tommy John and the Dodgers (and hope T. J. gets his shot at a Series start) and Kansas City. Andy Amey already has picked Philly and KC while Carl Jones says it'll be Philly and KC. Mike Russell picks the Phils and Yankees.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

Bio J

Tommy John to pitch against Mike Torrez

Community Affairs File

Series shifts to Los Angeles

OCT 13 1977

THE TRIBUNE, TERRE HAUTE, IND. THURSDAY, OCT. 13, 1977 19

By FRED ROTHENBERG
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It was an explosive combination that should protect New York City from power blackouts for a long time.

Catfish Hunter, a home run pitcher, was throwing big, hanging baseballs to the Los Angeles Dodgers, home run hitters, and the results were predictably powerful — particularly since Hunter hadn't pitched since Sept. 10.

The Dodgers walloped four homers, three off Hunter in the first 21-3 innings, and blasted the New York Yankees 6-1 Wednesday night, evening the 1977 World Series at one game apiece.

The ninth matchup of these historic baseball rivals now shifts across the country to Los Angeles for Game 3 Friday night, with Dodger left-hander Tommy John, a 20-game winner, hooking up with big Mike Torrez, a right-hander with 17 victories in the regular season.

Meanwhile, Wednesday night, the Yankees fell meekly to right-hander Burt Hooton's baffling knuckle-curves with just five hits, saving their best hitting for the locker room, as has been their custom for much of their wacky, but winning season.

"What's he doing starting Catfish?" wondered Reggie Jackson, second guessing his manager, Billy Martin. "He hasn't pitched since Sept. 10.

"This is the World Series," Jackson said, lacing his remarks with a more-than-occasional epithet. "It's not fair to the Cat and it's not fair to us."

The Dodgers, lambs in the locker room, were lions on the field, as has been their custom all season, when they belted a National League-leading 191 homers. Four Dodgers — Reggie Smith, Ron Cey, Steve Garvey, and Dusty Baker — smashed 30 or more homers, the first time that has been accomplished in the major leagues.

"This team did something Murderer's Row and the great Red Sox teams with Bobby Doerr, Vern Stephens and Ted Williams couldn't do," said Dodger Manager Tom Lasorda. "They consistently hit with power, and that's what they did tonight.

"Our guys are capable of hittinm them out of the Grand Canyon."

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

Community Affairs File Biog T NOV 2 1977

Tommy John and Seaver far behind Phils' pitcher

TERRE HAUTE, IND.
TRIBUNE
Sports

By FRED DOWN
UPI Sports Writer

NEW YORK (UPI) — Steve Carlton, whose 23 victories for the Philadelphia Phillies made him the major league's biggest winner, won his second National League Cy Young Award Wednesday by a decisive margin over the Los Angeles Dodgers' Tommy John.

The Phillies' 32-year-old lefthander, who also won the award as a 27-game winner in 1972 when Philadelphia finished last, received 17 first-place votes and a total of 104 points from the 24-man committee of the Baseball Writers Association of America which conducts the annual poll.

Carlton, 23-10, led the major leagues in victories this season, while his 198 strikeouts were fourth in the National League. He posted an earned run average of 2.64.

John, a 20-game winner for the Dodgers, had three second-place votes and a total of 54 points followed by Tom Seaver of the New York Mets and Cincinnati Reds and Rick Reuschel of the Chicago Cubs with 18 each, John Candelaria of the Pittsburgh Pirates with 17 and Bruce Sutter of the Cubs with five.

Carlton was on a hunting trip when the ballots were tabulated and was not available for comment.

The BBWAA point system gives five points for a first-place vote, three for second and one for third. Relief pitcher Sparky Lyle of the New York Yankees won the American League Award last week.

A 6-foot, 4-inch, 210-pound left-hander with an outstanding fast ball and sharp curve, Carlton has had an unusual career for a star of his magnitude.

He has been a 20-game winner four times and a 20-game loser once. He hrs won 191 games in a career that started with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1966 but has never won a post-season game — playoffs or World Series — in six appearances.

He was recognized by the media as one of the most cooperative athletes in sports until about two years ago when he went into a shell and often refused even to speak to reporters.

Carlton became a 20-game winner for the first time for the Cardinals in 1971 and then was traded to the Phillies for pitcher Rick Wise after a salary dispute with St. Louis owner Gussie Busch. He had a remarkable 27-10 record, a 1.98 earned run average and 310 strikeouts in 346 innings in 1972 and then slumped to a 13-20 mark in 1973. He was 16-13 in 1974 and 15-14 in 1975 before posting a 20-7 record in 1976.

John, nicknamed "The Bionic Man" because his arm was rebuilt by surgery after the 1974 season, had a 20-7 record and a 2.78 ERA for the Dodgers.

Seaver, traded by the Mets on June 15, was 14-3 for the Reds for a compisite 21-6 mark while Reuschel had a 20-10 record for the Cubs. Candelaria had a 20-5 record for the Pirates — the best winning percentage in the league among starters, while Sutter, a relief pitcher, had a 7-3 mark and a 1.35 ERA for the Cubs.

The award was named for Cy Young, who pitched in both leagues around the turn of the century and won a total of 511 major league games.

Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Picture is 45-minute saga on courage and baseball

Biography

TERRE HAUTE, IND.
TRIBUNE
Sports
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18, 1978 31

United Press International

HOLLYWOOD — Tommy John, the Los Angeles Dodgers' 20-game winner, will star in a new motion picture which almost certainly will be his first and last screen role.

It's not that John isn't handsome or talented enough to become a film star. He vaguely resembles Robert Stack. His talent, however, is better expressed on a baseball mound than on a movie screen.

The movie is a 45-minute biography of John's personal saga on and off the baseball diamond. His story is a study in courage, faith and determination.

But the film, as yet untitled and still in production, will never play your local theater. And not just because sports movies almost universally fail at the box office.

It's an inspirational film which will be circulated in churches, YMCAs, schools, service clubs, Boy Scout councils and the like.

John, 34, is a likeable, self-effacing athlete with sufficient personal integrity to identify himself as an heroic figure without false modesty.

"I think I'm an example of courage and hope to a lot of people, especially children," John said on a visit to Hollywood from his home near Disneyland in Orange County.

"The movie is about my comeback, my values and my outlook on life along with the things my wife, Sally, had to go through during some very, very difficult times. The film says some things I want to get across to young people."

The essence of what John has to say is: "Have faith in yourself."

John's self-confidence borders on the eerie.

In July of 1974 he was sailing along as one of the mainstays of the Dodger pitching staff. But in a game against Montreal the left-handed ace ruptured a ligament in his elbow.

Other pitchers who had suffered the same injury found their careers abruptly ended.

John underwent surgery in September, 1974. A tendon from his right forearm was used to reconstruct his left elbow. It was the first operation of its kind.

The surgeon told John his arm would be functional and useful but that he would never be able to pitch a baseball again. The doctor suggested he seek some other form of employment.

But John began a series of arduous and tortuous exercises, devoting endless weeks attempting to move the fingers of his left hand. The pain was monumental, the disappointments and setbacks crushing.

Additionally, John ran almost every day and conditioned his body with a variety of exercises. All the while he persisted in working on the ruined arm.

It was a triumphant turning point when he managed to wiggle the index finger on his left hand. The first of many such milestones.

Once he gained control of his fingers, his hand and his elbow, the determined athlete began to lob baseballs. He kept at it until he could throw the ball overhand. He worked tirelessly.

John sat out the 1975 season. His teammates and friends said nothing but were convinced that John's heart-rending work was an exercise in futility.

In the spring of 1976 John reported to the Dodger training camp. The Dodgers were astounded to see him pitch the ball with the old authority. But more than physical resourcefulness was involved.

Could John get his psychological act together facing opposing batters? John didn't win a game until his third start that year. He conquered the psychological demons of come-

Continued On Page 34, Col. 2.

(over)

Tommy John

Continued From Page 31.

back along with the Pittsburgh Pirates, 7-1.

He went on to win 10 games — while losing 10 — and posted a 3.09 earned run average for the year.

John was voted National League "Comeback Player of the Year."

He also won the Fred Hutchinson Award given annually to the player who best exemplifies the competitive instincts, character and desire of Fred Hutchinson. Last year John won 20 games for the Dodgers and was a major factor in pitching them into the World Series.

The coming season will mark John's 15th year in the major leagues, one season with Cleveland Indians, seven with the Chicago White Sox and six with the Dodgers.

"I wish I'd played all my games for the Dodgers," John said. "They're the finest organization in baseball."

In addition to the film, John and his wife, Sally, have collaborated with a professional writer on a book, "Miracle On The Mound," which will be published in time for the opening of baseball season.

"These days youngsters don't have many heroes," John said. "All kids should have people they can look up to and admire. They need examples to follow.

"If I can point the way to overcoming adversity, then I'll have made a contribution. If I can hang in there against the odds, so can someone else."

John, Tommy

Tommy John heads Dental Health Week scheduled Feb. 5-11

Community Affairs File

FEB 5 1978

Tommy Johns, a native of Terre Haute and baseball pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers, is the honorary chairman of Children's Dental Health Week, Feb. 5-11.

Special attention in the local area is to be the Dental Health Trailer sponsored by the League of Terre Haute and the Western Indiana Dental Society.

Tommy John

The 31st annual National Children's Dental Health Week's slogan is "Smile America."

The dental trail is a year-round program aimed at educating youngsters toward regular care of their teeth while providing some professional diagnosis and treatment, according to Mrs. George Tofaute, league president.

She emphasizes, however, that the primary purpose of the program is educational, aimed at encouraging children to protect the best teeth they'll ever have.

"Of particular concern in dental health is the matter of between meal sweets and tooth decay," she continued. "The local Dental Society with assistance of the American Dental Association is seeking to make these details better known so as to identify the dangers for the benefit of the general population."

Special cafeteria menus have been selected for the week of dental health in Vigo County schools including foods from four basic groups. Dentists have determined that frequent eating of foods that contain sugars particularly between meals contribute to food decay, Mrs. Tofaute noted. "A good rule to follow is to save those sweets for meal time."

The dental trailer visits all Vigo County public and parochial elementary schools on a rotating basis.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library Community Affairs File

John, Tommy

Biography

TOMMY JOHN PLAYS HIMSELF IN NEW, INSPIRATIONAL FILM

Sp FEB 4 1978

Terre Haute's Tommy John is the star of a new motion picture about his comeback from a disabling pitching arm injury.

In a recent United Press International story, Hollywood correspondent Vernon Scott reported that John, 34, is playing himself in the 45-minute film biography intended for showing at churches, YMCAs, schools and the like.

"I think I'm an example of courage and hope to lot of people, especially children," John told Scott. "The movie is about my comeback, my values and my outlook on life along with the things my wife, Sally, had to go through during some very, very difficult times. The film says some things I want to get across to young people.

"Heal yourself," is John's message. He ruptured a ligament in his elbow during a 1974 game, then the Dodger pitcher underwent an operation which used a tendon from his right forearm to reconstruct his left elbow. It was the first operation of its kind and the doctor said he would never pitch again.

But he did, gaining "comeback of the year" awards in 1976 and have his best season in 1977.

John and his wife have collaborated with a professional writer in putting together a book, "Miracle on the Mound," which will be published next spring.

"These days youngsters don't have many heroes," John said. "All kids should have people they can look up to and admire. They need examples to follow. If I can point the way to overcoming adversity, then I'll have made a contribution. If I can hang in there against the odds, so can someone else."

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

TJ Cites Former Coach For Longtime Aid

Biography Community Affairs File

STEB 8 1978

NEW YORK (AP) — He is baseball's bionic man, a pitcher who was snatched from the scrap heap by a delicate tendon transplant in his elbow.

Every time he walks to the mound for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Tommy John is a testimony to medical science, which replaced a ruptured tendon in his left elow with a healthy one from his right forearm and saved his career.

But if you ask John, he wouldn't have had a career to save had it not been for an anonynmous pitching coach named Ray Berres.

"Nobody ever heard of him, I guess, but he's the guy who taught me the art," said John. "I learned the fine points of pitching from him."

Berres was a journeyman second-string catcher in the National League from 1934 to 1945. He spent most of his career in dugouts and bullpens and a .216 career batting average made him a student of pitchers. When his playing days were over, Berres became a pitching coach. That was his job with the Chicago White Sox when John, a promising southpaw, came over from Cleveland.

"I never knew why a ball sank or didn't sink," the pitcher recalled. "I threw, that's all. Sometimes the ball would sink, sometimes it would tail. But I never understood the reasons."

Berres taught him those reasons.

"He taught me the way he felt you should pitch and that way was conducive to a good sinker," John said during a recent visit to New York. "I had a good fastball but I had no idea why it sank. It was mechanics and Ray showed that to me. Once you get the mechanics down, the ball will sink nine out of 10 times."

Learning those mechanics was not easy. John was a slow student until Berres discovered the right textbook.

"One year, during spring training, Ray kept harping on my motion," said John. "He kept saying, 'Stay back, retain your weight.' Nobody ever told me that before. I didn't really know what he meant. Then one day, after workouts, he was practicing his golf, hitting wedges. He knew I loved golf and he called me over and asked me to help him."

Berres took one practice swing and John diagnosed the coach's problem right away. "I told him, 'Your backswing is too fast.'"

And Berres came right back at John. "You see the way you swung at the golf ball?" the coach said. "Well, that's the way I want you to pitch."

It was then that John realized that a pitcher's windup is the equivalent of a golfer's backswing. The top of the backswing is the top of the pitcher's motion. "It was the same message he was trying to give me all spring, but when he related it in golf terms I could understand. It was like a puzzle with all the pieces falling in place."

Eventually their paths took them in different directions, John to Los Angeles where he helped the Dodgers to the 1977 National League pennant and Berres to Silver Lake, Wis., where he still studies pitchers.

"The guys who pitched for the White Sox when Ray was there, well, we're still his boys," said John. "Whenever I get in trouble my wife, Sally, says, 'You know what to do.' I pick up the phone and call him."

One time, John was struggling along and had been demoted to the bullpen to pull himself together. He decided it was time to talk to Berres.

"I called him in Silver Lake. The phone rang a couple times and when he answered, I said, 'Hello, you old goat, this is TJ.' He said, 'I was waiting for your call.'"

Berres got John through that crisis — he was throwing too many sliders — and came to the rescue of Wilbur Wood, another of his boys, last season.

"Woody was having all kinds of problems," said John. "Ray clipped a picture of him out of the newspaper and drove from Silver Lake to Milwaukee when the Sox were there. He got to the clubhouse early and Woody was there. He showed him the newspaper picture and another old picture of him when he was throwing well. The difference was obvious. Wood went out and pitched a shutout that day."

Berres is one of a breed of ordinary players who became outstanding pitching coaches. Others include George Bamberger, new manager of the Milwaukee Brewers, Johnny Sain, Marv Grissom and Red Adams, who does the job for the Dodgers.

"The great ones like (Warren) Spahn, and (Sandy) Koufax never had to work on anything," said John. "It came naturally to them. The guys who are the best teachers are the guys who had to work at it. If you work at it, you learn the fine points.

"Adams always talks about his 23-hitter. He was on a team that had only four pitchers. So if you started you finished, no matter what happened in between. You had to find ways to throw the ball. There was nobody to come in and rescue you."

John hasn't had any 23-hitters but he thinks he's learned enough about pitching from 15 years of practicing the art to pass it along. That's why he thinks some day that he'd like to be a coach like Berres and Adams. "I could be a good one, I think," he said.

Right now, though, he's still a good pitcher for the Dodgers. His 20-victory season made him runnerup for the Cy Young Award, beaten only by Steve Carlton of Philadelphia. Ironically, Carlton and John were the opposing pitchers for the final game of the National League playoffs when the Dodgers whipped the Phillies to clinch the pennant.

"That was the height of my comeback, right there," said John. "Three years before (after the elbow injury), I was watching my team in the World Series while I was out. Two years before, I was watching my team finish second by 20 games while I was out. The year before I watched my team lose by 10 games after I got back. Then, in 1977, we were back on top in the final game."

REFERENCE
DO NOT CI[illegible] E
Vigo County Public Library Community Affairs File

John, Tommy

Tommy John pleased with effort

Berg Community Affairs Fl

Stops Pittsburgh with four hits

T MAY 1 8 1979

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — When Tommy John becomes too old to pitch, maybe there will be a job awaiting him as a pinch hitter.

John, who celebrates his 35th birthday May 22, scattered four hits and cracked a two-run double Wednesday night to spark the Dodgers to a 10-1 rout of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

It was John's sixth win against one loss, that setback coming May 7 against the Pirates and the pitcher he opposed Wednesday, Jim Rooker. In that contest the Pirates ran at will against John and the Dodgers, stealing eight bases.

But in the first inning John gave the signal that this was another game.

"Red Adams (the pitching coach) told me to stop all that stuff about their stealing," John said. "He said if neccessary, throw 50 times to first base.

He didn't need 50 tosses to first. He just need 12.

Pittsburgh's leadoff man, Frank Tavaras, got aboard after John muffed a ball hit back to the mound. After 11 throws to first base, John picked Tavaras off with the 12th.

"I had great stuff and my fastball got better as the game went on," he said. "Pittsburgh can do a lot of things well. They hit and they run and they steal, so you have to pitch very carefully to them."

The Dodgers sent 10 men to the plate in the five-run fourth inning, with John and batterymate Steve Yeager knocking in two runs each.

Davey Lopes belted a two-run homer in the third inning and Ron Cey added another two-run shot in the seventh for the Dodgers.

Pinch hitter Lee Lacy sent everyone scurrying to the record books with a solo home run in the eighth. It was Lacy's third consecutive pinch home run in official trips to the plate. But the homers were broken up by a walk, thus denying him a National League record for pinch hitters.

Lacy, who has seen just limited duty since coming to the Dodgers in a trade from the Atlanta Braves in 1976, is trying to take a positive approach.

"I'm trying to make the most of this situation all the time and accomplish something," Lacy said. "The situation is not what I want it to be."

Bill North, replacing the injured Rick Monday and playing his first game in a Dodger uniform since coming from the Oakland A's in a deal Tuesday night, went hitless but drew three walks, one in the fourth with the bases loaded.

PITTSBURGH	ab	r	h	bi	LOS ANGELES	ab	r	h	bi
Taveras ss	4	0	1	0	Lopes 2b	3	1	1	2
Moreno cf	3	1	0	0	Lacy ph	1	1	1	1
Parker rf	3	0	1	0	Russell ss	2	0	0	0
Stennett 2b	3	0	0	1	Martinez ss	1	0	0	0
McEnaney p	0	0	0	0	Smith rf	5	1	2	0
Fregosi ph	1	0	0	0	Cey 3b	3	2	1	2
Stargell 1b	4	0	1	0	Garvey 1b	4	1	0	0
Brye lf	2	0	0	0	Baker lf	3	1	2	0
Garner 3b	2	0	0	0	Davalillo	1	0	1	0
Dyer c	3	0	1	0	North cf	1	1	0	1
Rooker p	1	0	0	0	Yeager c	4	2	2	2
Bibby p	0	0	0	0	John p	2	0	1	2
Sanguillin ph	1	0	0	0					
Kison p	0	0	0	0					
Mendoza 2b	1	0	0	0					
Totals	29	1	4	1	Totals	30	10	11	10

Pittsburgh 100 000 000—1
Los Angeles 002 508 21x—10

E—John, Moreno, Taveras. DP— Pittsburgh 2, Los Angeles 1. LOB— Pittsburgh 4, Los Angeles 5. 2B—John. HR—Lopes (4), Cey (3), Lacy (3). S— John 2.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Rooker L 2-2	3 1-3	4	6	6	4	1
Bibby	2-3	2	1	0	1	1
Kison	2	1	0	0	1	0
McEnaney	2	4	3	3	1	0
John W 6-1	9	4	1	1	3	6

T—2:30. A—35,097

Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy Bio

Tommy John preparing to tell story again

Ts JUN 1 1 1978 Community Affairs File

By SHERYL FLATOW

NEW YORK (UPI) — It has been more than two years since Tommy John walked into the Los Angeles Dodgers' spring training camp and began a comeback which doctors had deemed virtually impossible.

The story has been told and retold; about how John, a southpaw, destroyed a ligament in his left elbow in July, 1974 and had it replaced with a tendon from his right arm. He was only 31 at the time, and was told he would never pitch again.

He sat out the 1975 season and learned how to re-use his arm for practical purposes — like eating. And then he went to work on himself, learning how to pitch all over again. The result was a 10-10 season in 1976 and a superb 20-7 record last year when he was a strong candidate for the National League Cy Young award.

Now John is preparing to tell the story again, in a documentary film which will be distributed to youth groups, Boy Scout troops, church groups and the like, and in an autobiography. A religious man, he hopes to inspire young people by relating how he refused to quit.

"I want to get across the values I have which I think are important," said John during a recent visit to New York. "I want them to see the problems I encountered and how I dealt with them.

"Some people look on athletes as having a different set of standards than other people. But I want to show that the values I have aren't just for athletes or ballplayers."

The Tommy John Story will focus on the difficulties John and his wife Sally had in coping after the operation.

"I couldn't use my left hand at all, so I had to learn how to use my right hand," said John. "My wife and I would go to a restaurant and I would drop my food off the fork.

"Sally really had a hard time. It was hard for her to cope with the possibility of her husband being a cripple. Our first child was coming and we had to think about my getting out of baseball and finding another way to support my family."

Fortunately for John and the Dodgers, that wasn't necessary. Although Los Angeles has been playing mediocre baseball lately, the man with the bionic arm is off to a good start and looks to be on his way toward another 20-victory season.

Ironically, pitching has been a big problem for the Dodgers this year. During a recent five-game losing streak they gave up 30 runs, including one game in which they blew an 8-2 lead and lost to the New York Mets 9-8.

"We've just been playing bad baseball," said John. "There's no excuse for losing when you score eight runs. We've been making errors of omission, but the difference between last year and this year is that last year when we played a sloppy game we'd win it.

"We can't coordinate our pitching and our hitting. Our pitching really isn't as bad as it looks and I think the thing that will get us going again is if our pitchers can go out and give us 10 good games in a row."

Unlike other teams where losing has brought on dissension, the Dodgers have maintainted a basically friction-free atmosphere, he says. Even Manager Tom Lasorda has managed to retain his carefree disposition. His office remains open to celebrities like Frank Sinatra, Jonathan Winters, Jackie Cooper and Don Rickles and his refrigerator is stocked with wine, beer and other delicacies.

"Rickles is the best," said John. "Last season Rickles and his wife were visiting the clubhouse. I told Tommy we should put a uniform on Don and we can have him on the bench. He put on No. 40 with no name on the back. I had to show him how to put a uniform on.

"He sat on the bench giving all the signs and was the ballboy for one inning. He sat where the ballboy sat. At one point he brought four baseballs out to umpire John McSherry. He was talking to him, giving him all sorts of nonsense and finally patted him on the behind and walked back to the bench. The guys in both dugouts were hysterical but no one in the stands knew who the overgrown ballboy was."

The Dodgers haven't had much to laugh about so far this season. But John feels that their pull-together attitude will be a major factor in unraveling their problems.

"I know a lot of people and a lot of clubs thought that all that hugging that we did on the field last year was a lot of phoniness," said John. "But it wasn't. It was genuine.

"It's like a tug-of-war. It's a lot easier to win if everyone gets on one end of the rope and pulls. A harmonious team lends itself to winning.

"You can't be happy when you're losing. When you have 24 people on the same team — whether they're ballplayers, teachers, or any other group of people — you have 24 personalities and there's bound to be some friction. But our guys get along as well as any group and we have very little dissension.

"Actually, in baseball you can get away with dissension easier than in other sports because baseball is an individual sport played as a team. But it makes things easier when everyone is pulling for everyone else."

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE

Vigo County Public Library DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

Ts JUN 18 1978

Community Affairs File

Questions continue for Tommy John

By HAL BOCK

NEW YORK (AP) — Tommy John was running in the outfield at Shea Stadium, doing his between-starts work, when another pitcher interrupted the left-hander's sprints.

"Tommy, can I talk to you for a minute?" asked Bob Apodaca.

"I knew I'd see him sooner or later," said John, the Los Angeles Dodger left-hander. "I'm glad we finally got to talk."

Apodaca is a right-hander with the New York Mets and last spring he was pitching in an exhibition game when the ligament in his elbow popped. Only one other pitcher has experienced the same kind of injury. That pitcher was Tommy John.

"He asked me about my rehabilitation," said John, whose career was saved by delicate tendon transplant surgery that restored his ability to pitch. "I told him I swam a lot and I threw everyday to my wife. He laughed at that and asked me why."

That seemed like a fair question but John had a logical answer.

"I wanted to make sure I didn't overthrow," he said. "So I threw to Sally. That way, I wouldn't throw that hard."

John was injured July 14, 1974 in Montreal. He was pitching normally when suddenly the ligament in his elbow virtually exploded. "It was not excruciating pain," John recalled. "It was more like a jab. Then it felt like my elbow had left my body and was out of my control. There was a void feeling."

For four weeks after being injured, John tried to pitch. "I taped my elbow, the way you would a sprained ankle," he said. "I tried everything."

Finally, surgery was prescribed.

"When Dr. (Frank) Jobe operated on my elbow, he said it looked like a big bunch of spaghetti with fibres and strands all over the place," said John.

That caused the tendon transplant which made John into baseball's bionic pitcher. The surgery saved his career and last year the Dodger left-hander won 20 games during the regular season as well as the pennant clincher in the playoffs against Philadelphia.

Apodaca described the injury the same way, feeling as though his elbow had floated off into space on a particular pitch. There was, however, an important difference between his problem and John's.

"The way Bob explained it, his ligament tore away at the end and to repair it, they just sutured the end back in place," said John.

"I think he's optimistic about coming back, because of me," the Dodger pitcher continued. "If I could do it, why can't others. I'm sure he will."

Each time he goes to the mound, John knows first-hand the risks involved. "I don't worry about it," he said. "It comes with the territory. An arm is so fragile. It wasn't designed to pitch baseballs. But I'll tell you this. My arm could come loose right now and if it did, I'd try to get it fixed."

Why?

"Because I'm a pitcher. That's what I do," he said.

Bob Apodaca understands that perfectly.

Community Affairs File Vigo County Public Library REFERENCE DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

Tommy John Whips Reds For 9th Victory

Community Affairs File

Phils, Cubs Split; 500 For Willie

Blon

S JUL 1 1978

CINCINNATI (AP) — Rookie right-hander Bob Welch won his first major league start and drove in the first run, helping the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 5-2 victory and a doubleheader sweep of the skidding Cincinnati Reds Friday night.

In the opener, Dave Lopes smacked a two-run homer in the eighth and Ron Cey added a solo blast to give Tommy John a 5-3 victory over the Reds.

The 21-year-old Welch, who was called up from the minors last week, pitched six scoreless innings, allowing five hits, as the Dodgers took over second place in the National League West.

The defeats saddled the Reds with a five-game losing streak and a total of only four runs in 38 innings.

Welch, 2-0, broke up the scoreless duel with Reds starter Manny Sarmiento with an RBI single in the fifth. The Dodgers added three runs in the sixth on Cey's sacrifice fly and a two-run homer by Dusty Baker. Another sac fly by Cey in the eighth accounted for the Dodgers final run.

Sarmiento, 6-4, gave up five hits in seven innings. The burning rivalry heated up in the night cap when Reds third baseman Pete Rose had to be restrainied from going in the Dodgers dugout after exchanging words with the Los Angeles bench.

Steve Garvey ignited the rally in the opener with a two-run homer in the seventh off Paul Moskau, who had protected a 3-0 lead with six innings of two-hit pitching.

The Reds had tagged John, 9-6, for three runs on three hits in the first inning. Dave Concepcion doubled to drive in a run and end Cincinnati's string of 20 scoreless innings. George Foster drove in the third run.

Lopes and Cey homered off relief ace Doug Bair who had just entered the game. Lopes' homer, his ninth this season, came after a walk to Bill North, who pinch hit for John.

The victory gave John a 12-3 liftime record against the Reds. John allowed seven hits in seven innings and Lance Rautzhan came on to preserve

Vigo County Public Library
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Community Affairs File

John, Tommy
Community Affairs File

TJ: Selected For Second All-Star Team

T JUL 5 1978

By Lasorda

Terre Haute's major leaguer, Tommy John, added another note of distinction to his list of achievements Tuesday when he was named to the National League All-Star pitching staff.

His boss, Los Angeles Manager Tommy Lasorda, made the picks but he doubtless would have been picked by another man. Just last Friday he defeated the Cincinnati Reds for the third time this season to help the Dodgers move past the NL West rivals and increase his own record to 9-6.

He has lost once to Cincy and that setback came via an outfield error in the ninth inning late last month in LA.

TJ's story, of course, has been told countless times. He underwent elbow surgery in 1974 that many thought would end his baseball career. Instead, he came back to earn Comeback Player of the Year honors in 1976 and was second in the NL Cy Young voting last year when he was 20-7 for the NL champs.

He also pitched the Dodgers into the World Series against the New York Yankees by stopping Philadelphia in Philly in the playoffs on a rainy Saturday night. He appeared in two playoff games and his ERA is 0.66 to show for it.

He then pitched in his first World Series and was a loser and didn't have the chance to go a second time as the Yankees took the Dodgers in six games.

TJ, who graduated from Gerstmeyer High School, was signed by the Cleveland Indians and began his pro career with Dubuque in 1961. He was with the Chicago White Sox from 1964 to 1968 and has been with the Dodgers since, being traded to the National League ball club with Steve Huntz for Richie Allen.

His major league mark is 163-129 while his NL log is 79-38. Heading into this season, his ERA stood at an impressive 2.97.

The Dodger ace is 35 years of age and is married to the former Sally Simmons, a former yell leader at Indiana State. They are the parents of a son and daughter and live in the Los Angeles area.

TJ was named to his first all-star team 10 years ago when he was still with the Chisox. He worked two-thirds of an inning in Houston and allowed one hit.

He tied for most shutouts in the American League in both 1966 and 1967 and is among the all-time leaders with 28 starting this season.

That same year of his first and other all-star game also was the year of another severe injury for the local major leaguer. He was out with torn ligaments in his shoulder from August through the rest of the season.

So, TJ has come back more than once to earn his spot in baseball record books.

Joining John on the NL mound staff, as chosen by Lasorda, are Ross Grimsley and Steve Rogers of Montreal, Tom Seaver of Cincinnati, Pat Zachry of New York, Vida Blue of San Francisco, Rollie Fingers of San Diego, Bruce Sutter of Chicago, and Phil Niekro of Atlanta.

American League pitchers were named Monday and the starting lineup was released Tuesday. The NL starters will be denoted Wednesday for next Tuesday's game in San Diego.

Both Blue and Grimsley have won 11 games each to lead the NL mound contingent.

Blue, comeing from the American League last winter, has an ERA of 2.14 with an 11-4 won-loss record, and has won one All-Star decision in two games. It will be his fourth appearance, while Grimsley, 11-5, is making his first All-Star appearance.

Seaver, 9-5, pitched his first no-hitter June 16 and now has been selected to an All-Star squad for the 11th time. Over the years Seaver, 33, has appeared in seven games and pitched 12 innings with no decisions.

Rogers' won-loss mark for the Expos is 10-7. He leads the league with an ERA of 2.10 and has not allowed more than three runs in a game this season.

Sutter, the 25-year-old relief ace for the Cubs, is making his first All-Star appearance. He is joined in the bullpen by Fingers, an All-Star for the fourth time, who leads the league with 18 saves and has four wins as well.

Zachry has emerged as the ace of the Mets' squad with a 9-4 record and a 3.14 ERA. Niekro, selected for the third time, is 9-9.

The nine-man staff has a combined record of 77-50 and is dominated by righthanders — Seaver, Rogers, Sutter, Fingers, Zachry and Niekro.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

ALL—STAR TOMMY JOHN

John, Tommy

John returns to spot he thought his in '74

TS JUL 9 1978

By JACK STEVENSON

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Tommy John, the man with the rebuilt pitching arm, makes his return to the All-Star game Tuesday on the National League side, a spot he thought he'd earned in 1974 before misfortune struck.

John pitched for the American League in 1968 when the Nationals won 1-0 and in 1972 was traded by the Chicago White Sox to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

So he now pitches for the NL which has won 19 of the last 23 All-Star games and 14 of the last 15.

In 1974, Tommy was 13-3 by midseason with the Dodgers but was bypassed by Yogi Berra, the manager of the NL All-Star team. On the following July 17, John ruptured a ligament in his pitching elbow and needed unusual surgery for the repair. Tendons from his right arm were surgically transferred to the left elbow.

He missed the rest of 1974 and all of 1975.

In 1976 John was 10-10 and last year posted 20-7, but even so wasn't selected for the National League All-Stars. This time Tommy Lasorda, skipper of the NL champion Dodgers of 1977, selected the 35-year-old left-hander although he was only 9-6 this campaign.

"Tommy's been pitching in tough luck," commented Lasorda whose Dodgers club won the pennant in his rookie managerial season with the big help from the southpaw. "He's been much better than his record indicates."

An appreciative pitcher commented, "It's very meaningful. Very few players have made it in both leagues."

Some who did it were Frank Robinson, Andy Messersmith, Ron Fairly and Jim Bunning. Vida Blue is another former AL All-Star who hurls for the rival league this season.

The National League leads the All-Star series 29-18 and has won the past six games including a 7-5 triumph last season. The New York Yankees' Billy Martin, who piloted that AL squad, will again be at the helm for this game with its 6 p.m. PDT starting time in San Diego Stadium which seats 48,460.

Fans select the players to start the game except for the pitching staff which is selected by the managers — the two whose clubs reached the past World Series.

Ron Guidry, the little left-hander who set a Yankees club record by winning 11 games without defeat starting this year, probably will start for the AL with a pitching staff including his teammate Rich Gossage, Jim Palmer and Mike Flanagan of Baltimore, Frank Tanana of the California Angels, Oakland's Matt Keough and Cleveland's Jim Kern.

The National League staff has John, Tom Seaver of Cincinnati, Blue of San Francisco who formerly starred with the Oakland A's, Steve Rogers and Ross Grimsley of Montreal, Bruce Sutter of the Chicago Cubs, Rollie Fingers of San Diego, Pat Zachry of the New York Mets and Phil Niekro of Atlanta.

The batting orders of both clubs have power, but the fans apparently overlooked some hurting stars of 1978 in choosing the starting lineups.

Cincinnati's catcher Johnny Bench and second baseman Joe Morgan have both been out with the injuries, but led their positions in the balloting. Their back-up players could be seeing a lot of service.

Minnesota's first baseman Rod Carew, also hurt part of this 1978 season, led the balloting for the AL with 4,010,136 votes.

Carew has been named to the All-Star squad all 12 years he's been in the majors, nine times as a second baseman and three times at first.

His AL teammates will be catcher Carlton Fisk of Boston, second baseman Don Money of Milwaukee, shortstop Fred Patek of Kansas City, third baseman George Brett of Kansas City and outfielders Jim Rice of Boston, Reggie Jackson of the Yankees and Richie Zisk of Texas.

Rice, Fisk, Brett, Zisk and Jackson all are previous All-Star starters.

The National League will have Bench behind the plate with Steve Garvey of the Los Angeles Dodgers at first, Morgan at second, Larry Bowa of Philadelphia at shortstop and Pete Rose of Cincinnati at third.

The outfielders will be George Foster of Cincinnati, Rick Monday of the Dodgers and Greg Luzinski of Philadelphia.

The Philadelphians, Bowa and Luzinski, topped the voting with 3,396,054 and 3,503,738 votes, respectively.

Luzinski, Garvey, Bench, Morgan and Foster all started last year. Rose is starting for the seventh time at either third base, second base or the outfield.

Bench is making his 11th All-Star appearance, his 10th straight as a starter. He and Carew are the only players to be elected in each of the years since the fans took over the voting in 1970.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library

John, Tommy

Tommy John says it's fun pitching before Mets' fans

Community Affairs File

AUG 1 9 1978

By FRANK BROWN
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Not that long ago, a visit by the Los Angeles Dodgers to Shea Stadium would have meant a guaranteed crowd of 45,000-plus. New Yorkers who remembered the Brooklyn Dodgers, remembered loving them or hating them, would come for a taste of nostalgia.

Times, however, have changed. "The bitter rivalry has ended," said Dodgers left-hander Tommy John. "As the older players have gone by the wayside, the fierceness has left.

"But when I pitch at Shea Stadium, I feel good," continued the veteran. "I guess it's something psychological — the big ballpark, the big crowds; I feel good. It's fun to go into any ballpark where the fans make a lot of noise."

The 26,660 fans made plenty of noise Friday night, booing four Met errors and other mistakes as the first-place Dodgers, on John's sixth consecutive victory here and four RBI by Steve Garvey, breezed to a 7-3 triumph.

"We're doing the things the Dodgers can do," said John, 14-9, who got eighth-inning relief help from Charlie Hough. "We're forcing the issue — taking the game to the other side instead of waiting for things to happen."

They didn't have to wait long for some help from the last-place Mets. Reggie Smith, the game's third batter, reached on an error by pitcher Nino Espinosa and stole second. Consecutive singles by Garvey, Rick Monday and Lee Lacy gave John a 2-0 lead before he faced a batter.

"Earlier in the year," said John, "when we got a well-pitched game, we didn't hit. We'd play well and end up losing, play sloppy and end up winning."

This time, there were no mistakes. Four consecutive walks by Espinosa gave the Dodgers a third-inning run, then Garvey powered a three-run homer in the fourth to give John more than enough support.

"I'm hitting the ball equally well to all fields," said Garvey, whose 17th homer of the season gave him eight RBI in two games. "That makes it very tough to defend against me and it makes it tough on the pitchers, too."

The Mets made it tough enough on themselves. Espinosa bungled Smith's high topper to the right of the mound for the first error of his 71-game major league career.

That opened the gates. Doug Flynn dropped catcher John Stearns' throw as Smith stole second. Third baseman Len Randle fumbled Lee Lacy's seventh-inning grounder and center fielder Lee Mazzilli misplayed Joe Ferguson's subsequent single.

For good measure, John drove in a seventh-inning run with his second single of the contest. His only trouble came in the fourth, when Stearns hit a two-run homer and Elliott Maddox smacked an RBI double.

The result was the Dodgers' 11th victory in the last 13 games, John's ninth career victory in 10 decisions against the Mets and the fifth straight loss to Los Angeles for Espinosa, 9-11.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File

John, Tommy

T AUG 25 1978

Tommy John earns his 15th victory

By FRED McMANE
UPI Sports Writer

Manny Mota has been getting paid about $8,750 per hit this year and the Los Angeles Dodgers figure he's worth every penny.

Mota, a pinch hitter extraordinaire, isn't called upon often by manager Tom Lasorda but he seems to make the most of his chances.

Lasorda summoned Mota to bat in the eighth inning against reliever Tug McGraw Thursday night and the 40-year-old Dominican delivered a run-scoring single off the glove of third baseman Mike Schmidt to give the Dodgers a 5-4 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Mota's pinch hit was the 130th of his career and it was his eighth pinch-hit in 26 plate appearances this season. Mota earns $70,000 a season from the Dodgers for his pinch-hitting efforts.

Mota would like to play more, but he understands Lasorda's predicament.

"It's hard for a manager to use guys in a certain situation. I understand we have a lot of pinch hitters, but if I stay ready and give one hundred percent I'll be satisified. I don't blame that when I make an out. I've got to try to prepare and stay in shape."

Most players Mota's age have long since retired but he doesn't feel age should be a factor in determining one's skills.

"I don't believe a person's age has anything to do with a person's ability," said Mota. "If I stay ready and do my running and do my hitting, I don't see any reason why I can't make contact."

Tommy John was the benefactor of Mota's hit as he went eight innings to gain his 15th victory. The loss was the Phillies' 20th in 26 road games against National League West teams.

Pirates 5, Braves 1

Bert Blyleven tossed a seven-hitter over 8 1-3 innings and stroked a three-run double to highlight a five-run seventh-inning that carried Pittsburgh to its 10th straight victory. The Pirates snapped a scoreless tie off loser Phil Niekro, 15-14, in the seventh. Bob Horner hit his 15th homer for Atlanta.

Cardinals 4, Reds 3

Pete Vuckovich tossed a six-hitter and George Hendrick homered in the first inning to lead St. Louis. Vuckovich, 12-9, was tagged for a two-run homer by Ken Griffey but maintained his league lead in earned run average with 2.22. Mike Phillips also chipped in with a two-run single for the Cards.

Mets 6, Padres 3

Joel Youngblood hit a sacrifice fly and an RBI double and John Stearns hit a two-run double to pace New York. Mike Bruhert, 3-6, scattered five hits and struck out six in 7 1-3 innings to get the victory with Bob Owchinko suffering the loss. Gene Tenace homered for San Diego.

Philadelphia	ab	r	h	bi
JMartin rf	5	2	2	1
Bowa ss	2	0	0	0
Harrisn ss	3	0	3	0
Schmdt 3b	4	1	2	1
Luzinski lf	2	0	0	0
Cardenl 1b	4	0	1	0
GMddx cf	4	0	1	1
McCarvr c	2	0	0	0
Boone c	1	1	1	0
Sizemor 2b	4	0	1	1
Carlton p	2	0	0	0
Brusstar p	1	0	0	0
McGraw p	0	0	0	0
McBrid ph	1	0	0	0
Total	25	4	11	4

Los Angeles	ab	r	h	bi
Lopes 2b	5	1	3	0
North cf	4	0	1	0
RSmith rf	1	1	1	1
Lacy rf	3	0	0	0
Garvey 1b	4	0	0	0
Cey 3b	4	1	3	1
DBaker lf	4	1	1	0
Fergusn c	1	0	0	0
Grote c	2	0	0	0
Davalli ph	1	0	0	0
Oates c	0	0	0	0
Russell ss	3	1	2	2
John p	3	0	1	0
Mondy ph	0	0	0	0
Mota ph	1	0	1	1
Hough p	0	0	0	0
Total	36	5	13	5

Philadelphia	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0— 4
Los Angeles	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	x— 5

E—John, Schmidt 2. DP—Philadelphia 1, Los Angeles 1. LOB—Philadelphia 8, Los Angeles 9. 2B—Sizemore, Cey, DBaker, Lopes. HR—JMartin (8) SF—Schmidt.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Philadelphia						
Carlton	4	6	2	2	1	2
Brusstar L,3-2	3 1-3	5	3	3	0	4
McGraw	2-3	2	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles						
John W,15-9	8	10	4	4	2	2
Hough	1	1	0	0	0	0

Save—Hough (7). HBP—North (by Carlton), McCarver (by John). WP—John. T—2:46. A—49,064.

Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

Berg S OCT 6 1978

JOHN PITCHES SHUTOUT — Los Angeles Dodger pitcher Tommy John winds up to pitch to the Philadelphia Phillies late in the National League playoff game Wednesday at Philadelphia. John pitched a four-hit shutout and the Dodgers won the second game in the best-of-five series. Details in sports (Star: AP Laserphoto)

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

John, Tommy

2-0 Lead

TJ Stymies Phils To Give LA

Blog

S OCT 6 1978

By JOE JULIANO
UPI Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) — With southpaw Tommy John pitching as effectively as he did Thursday, the outfielders on the Los Angeles Dodgers would have been better off with three easy chairs and a pitcher of lemonade.

The 35-year-old bionic lefthander who was thought to be washed up four years ago after serious elbow surgery pitched a four-hitter to give Los Angeles a 4-0 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies and a 2-0 edge in the National League championship series.

John was so sharp with a sinking fastball that tailed away from the Phillies' all righthanded-hitting lineup that only two fly balls were hit to the outfield all day.

"It takes a lot of concentration to stand out there when he's pitching like that," said Dusty Baker who did not touch the ball once in the game. "You have to keep your head up all game. The only time you relax is when it's hit by you."

John got 21 outs on ground balls. The only two outs hit to the outfield were line drives by Bob Boone in the second and Garry Maddox to end the ballgame.

"I threw more ground balls in a game in 1967," John said. "I beat the Red Sox in Boston and I had 23 ground balls. I struck out Reggie Smith (now his teammate) for the final out.

"I threw mostly fastballs today because that's what I consider my best pitch. I had a good curve today and I went to it more than I normally do."

Despite the masterpiece, John was on the verge of being lifted in the eighth inning after giving up a walk to Jerry Martin. Manager Tom Lasorda went out to talk to John but his ace lefty talked him into keeping him in the game.

"I asked him how he felt," Lasorda said. "He said he was starting to get tired. I told him I had my big bulls ready. He said 'let me pitch to (Ted) Sizemore' and he got him to hit into a double play. If he hadn't gotten him out, I believe I would have taken him out.

"He's a super pitcher," Lasorda continued. "He kept the ball down today. He's phenomenal when you consider no one thought he could pitch again."

John ruptured a ligament in his left elbow in 1974 and underwent surgery two months later during which time a tendon from his right forearrm was used to reconstruct the left elbow. After he took 1975 off, John won 10 games in 1976, 20 games in 1977 and 17 this year.

Dave Lopes continued his torrid hitting, backing John with a home run, triple and single for three runs batted in. His solo homer in the fourth came after Phils' starter Dick Ruthven retired the first nine Dodger batters in order.

"We wanted to get the jump on the Phillies extremely early," Lopes said. "We wanted to get them mentally down as quick as we could. The team looked for me to do something and I was lucky to get a 3-2 fastball from Dick."

"I've seen him in the last two years turn into one fine clutch hitter," Lasorda said of Lopes. "He's extremely confident now. He lives for the tough moments."

Lopes, who hit one of four Los Angeles homers in Wednesday night's game and then revealed the Dodgers were dedicating this series to their stricken coach Jim Gilliam, broke up a scoreless game with a leadoff homer in the fourth inning, singled home another in the fifth and tripled to knock in one more in the seventh.

The Dodgers roughed up Ruthven in the fifth inning with the same disrespect they showed Larry Christenson the night before. Dusty Baker led off with a line double into the left field corner and after Rick Monday went out on a tapper to first, Steve Yeager singled to center for a 2-0 lead. Yeager stole second and came home standing up on Lopes' sharp single to center. Another base hit by Bill Russell finished Ruthven.

With Ron Reed pitching in the seventh, Monday led off with a single to right field and moved up on a sacrifice by John. Lopes ripped his triple to the wall in right center for a 4-0 Los Angeles lead.

Lasorda, while very pleased with his team's performance in Philadelphia, cautioned that the Dodgers have to win one

(over)

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

more game before breaking out the champagne.

"I'm gratified to win two games at Veterans Stadium," he said. "But it's still the best of five and we still have to win one more. We've been getting super pitching and I hope that we'll continue tomorrow and we can win."

BASEBALL PLAYOFFS
AMERICAN LEAGUE

Friday's Game

Kansas City (Splittorff 19-13) at New York (Hunter 12-6), 2:30 p.m., series tied 1-1

Saturday's Game

Kansas City at New York, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday's Game

Kansas City at New York, 7:30 p.m., if necessary

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Friday's Game

Philadelphia (Carlton 16-13) at Los Angeles (Sutton 15-11), 7:30 p.m., LA leads 2-0

Saturday's Game

Philadelphia at Los Angeles, 3:30 p.m., if necessary

Sunday's Game

Philadelphia at Los Angeles, 2:55 p.m., if necessary

The Dodgers can wrap up the series with a win Friday

See Photo, Page One

TOO MUCH TJ

LOS ANGELES	ab	r	h	bi	PHILADELPHIA	ab	r	h	bi
Lopes 2b	4	1	3	3	Schmidt 3b	4	0	1	0
Russell ss	4	0	1	0	Bowa ss	4	0	0	0
Smith rf	4	0	1	0	Maddox cf	4	0	1	0
Garvey 1b	4	0	0	0	Luzinski lf	3	0	1	0
Cey 3b	4	0	0	0	Cardenal 1b	2	0	0	0
Baker lf	4	1	1	0	Boone c	3	0	1	0
Monday cf	4	1	1	0	Martin rf	2	0	0	0
Yeager c	3	1	1	1	Sizemore 2b	3	0	0	0
John p	3	0	0	0	Ruthven p	1	0	0	0
					Brusstar p	0	0	0	0
					Morrison ph	1	0	0	0
					Reed p	0	0	0	0
					Foote ph	1	0	0	0
					McGraw p	0	0	0	0
Totals	34	4	8	4	Totals	28	0	4	0

Los Angeles 000 120 100— 4
Philadelphia 000 000 000— 0

DP—Los Angeles 3. LOB—Los Angeles 5, Philadelphia 3. 2B—Smith, Baker. 3B— Lopes. HR—Lopes (2). SB—Yeager. S— John.

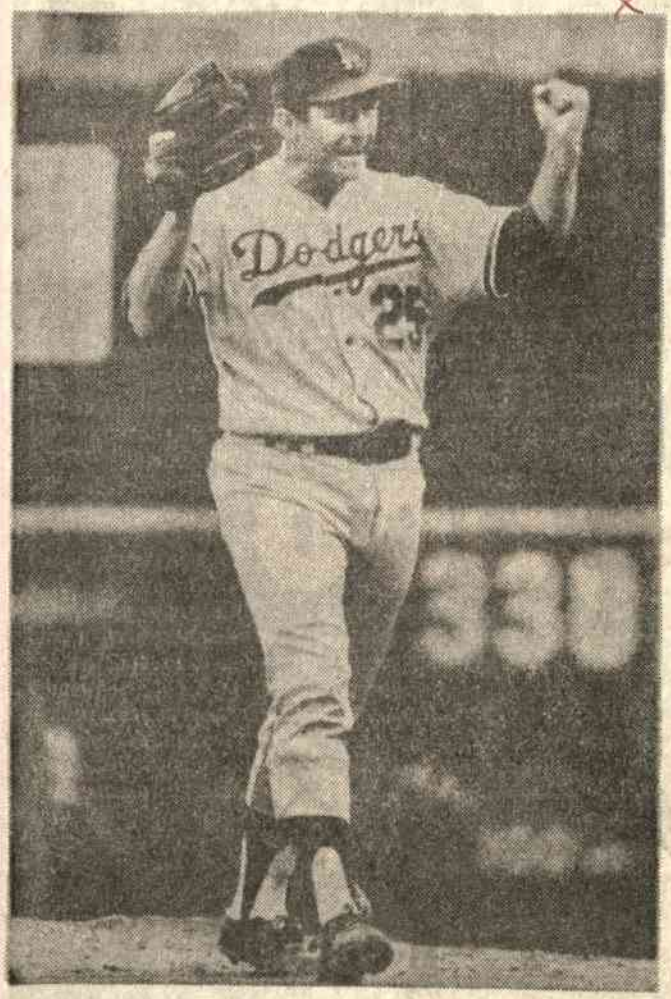
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
John (W 1-0)	9	4	0	0	2	4
Ruthven (L 0-1)	4 2-3	6	3	3	0	3
Brusstar	1 1-3	0	0	0	0	0
Reed	2	2	1	1	0	1
McGraw	1	0	0	0	1	0

T—2:06. A—60,642.

John, Tommy

Tommy Hopeful About Contract

S OCT 7 1978



TERRE HAUTE'S TJ—Tommy John was a happy man after he pitched a shotout for the Los Angeles Dodgers in Philadelphia Thursday to help his team take a big edge in the National League series. He hopes to stay happy in LA. (Star Photo: AP)

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tommy John, reconstructed left arm and all, isn't too eager to discuss his contract difficulties. He'd rather talk about playing when he reaches his 40s.

"All I want to do is play baseball, a contract will take care of itself," said the 35-year-old John, who has won 37 games the past two seasons. "All I'm worried about is what's going on right now."

Terre Haute's TJ pitched a four-hit shutout Thursday to give the Los Angeles Dodgers a 2-0 lead over the Philadelphia Phillies in the National League Playoffs. It was only his third appearance since he suffered a torn left calf muscle Sept. 9.

John, who missed half of the 1974 season and all of 1975 because of a severed ligament in his pitching elbow, will become a free agent after this season if the Dodgers don't sign him.

John and Los Angeles management reportedly agree as far as money is concerned ($275,000 a year), but the pitcher wants a three-year contract while the team has offered two years.

"I feel like I can pitch five or six more good years," John said before the third NL playoff game Friday. "Remember, Warren Spahn was 23-7 when he was 42 and had seven shutouts. You can look it up.

"People are making too big a thing as far as the contract is concerned. That really shouldn't be, it's insignificant in comparison to winning ballgames."

John was 10-10 in 1976 when he won NL comeback player of the year honors. He was 20-7 in 1977. He says his calf injury cost him another 20-win season this year.

"The leg feels okay right now," he said. "I think the injury kept me from honors I would have liked to have had. The way I was throwing the ball then, I felt I could have won four more gamees or so, maybe been a contender for the Cy Young Award.

"The layoff didn't bother me as much as (Dodger) management thought it would."

John returned to pitch three innings of shutout relief in Cincinnati Tuesday Sept. 26. He then pitched five scoreless innings last Saturday night. That was followed by his complete-game gem against the Phillies.

Did the layoff contribute to his fine performance Thursday?

"I don't think it had anything to do with it, but rest at this time of the year has got to help," he said. "Actually, because of my sinker ball I usually pitch better when I'm a little tired."

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File

John, Tommy

TJ, Dodgers Make It Look Easy

TJ Won This One

S OCT 11 1978

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Tommy John lost to the New York Yankees a year ago. But Tuesday night, pitching what he described as an *atypical* game, he got tired and still was the winner as the Los Angeles Dodgers took an 11-5 victory in the opener of this year's World Series.

"I threw the ball well," John said, "but we got a little sloppy at the end. With a big lead, I didn't want to walk anybody, so instead of good quality pitches, I was just trying to not walk a man.

"It was not a typical Tommy John game. I'm better when I keep the ball down low all the time. I got hurt on balls that got up in the strike zone and some that were just missing."

John perhaps was the only one unhappy with his performance. The score was 7-0 when Reggie Jackson hit a leadoff homer in the seventh.

"It was a fast ball down the middle, a three-ball and one-strike pitch with a 7-0 lead," John said.

Asked if it bothered him to be taken out in the eighth when reliever Terry Forster came on, John answered: "In all honesty, no. I had gotten tired and a little arm weary. There are other games to come."

The 35-year-old lefthander is one of three Dodgers who hasn't signed and could become a free agent at the end of this season.

Tommy Lasorda made John the surprise starter.

"After looking at the results, there is no question about the wisdom," Lasorda said. "Tommy definitely got tired, and I didn't want to put a strain on his arm."

TJ Enters Series Book

NEW YORK	ab	r	h	bi	LOS ANGLS	ab	r	h	bi
Rivers cf	4	0	0	0	Lopes 2b	5	2	2	5
Blair cf	1	0	0	0	Russell ss	5	1	3	0
White lf	4	0	1	0	Smith rf	5	0	1	1
Munson c	4	1	0	0	Garvey 1b	5	1	2	0
Jackson dh	4	1	3	1	Cey 3b	4	1	1	0
Piniella rf	4	2	1	1	Baker lf	4	2	3	1
Nettles 3b	4	0	1	1	Monday cf	2	2	1	0
Chmbls 1b	4	1	1	0	North cf	1	1	1	2
Stanley 2b	2	0	1	0	Lacy dh	3	0	1	1
Johnsn ph	1	0	0	0	Yeager c	4	1	0	0
Doyle 2b	0	0	0	0					
Dent ss	4	0	1	2					
Total	36	5	9	5	Total	38	11	15	10

New York	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	— 5
Los Angeles	0	3	0	2	1	0	3	1	x	—11

E—Dent, Lopes, Russell. DP—New York 2, Los Angeles 1. LOB—New York 6, Los Angeles 6. 2B—Monday, Stanley, North, Russell. HR—Lopes 2 (2), Baker (1), Jackson (1).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Figueroa L,0-1	1 2-3	5	3	3	1	0
Clay	2 1-3	4	4	3	2	2
Lindblad	2 1-3	4	3	3	0	1
Tidrow	1 2-3	2	1	1	0	1
John W,1-0	7 2-3	8	5	3	2	4
Forster	1 1-3	1	0	0	0	3

WP—Clay. T—2:48. A—55,997.

WORLD SERIES IN REVIEW

Wednesday's Game
New York at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.
Friday's Game
Los Angeles at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday's Game
Los Angeles at New York, 2:30 p.m.
Sunday's Game
Los Angeles at New York, 3:30 p.m., if necessary
Tuesday, Oct 17
New York at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m., if necessary
Wednesday, Oct. 18
New York at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m., if necessary

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library

John, Tommy

'For Sale' sign

TJ thought of hanging out

T OCT 14 1978

By JACK STEVENSON

NEW YORK (AP) — Tommy John says in jest that he thought of putting a "For Sale" on his back in his contract negotiations with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

That sign hasn't been needed in this baseball postseason.

John showed off his pitching wares with a shutout victory over the Philadelphia Phillies in the National League Championship Series and an opening-game victory over the New York Yankees in the World Series.

After the Yankees won in their home stadium Friday night to cut the Dodgers' lead to 2-1 in games, Manager Tommy Lasorda again nominated his veteran left-hander to pitch Saturday's game.

"Sometimes I do better on three days' rest than on four," said the sinkerball thrower. "It doesn't bother me."

He does wonder about the contract. If he doesn't reach agreement with the Dodgers, he can become a free agent after this season.

The day before his second outing against the Yankees, John said there has been no change in the contract stalemate. Reportedly, the Dodgers have offered a two-year pact at $275,000 per year and John asks a contract of three years' duration.

The Dodgers had only admiration for the fielding job turned in by Yankees third baseman Graig Nettles, who made four sensational stops Friday night.

"He cost us five to seven runs," commented right fielder Reggie Smith. "They play well here and we play well in our ball park."

Second baseman Davey Lopes said, "Give the Yankees credit. They were aggressive and didn't let us turn the double play."

Lopes was the man in the middle on three occasions when New York runners broke up the twin-killing attempts.

"Paul Blair got to me, Chris Chambliss rolled over me and Reggie Jackson tried to kill me," Lopes said. "That's their style of game. I think we will have to do the same."

Center fielder Bill North, another of the three unsigned Dodgers who could become free agents, said that Yankees ace Ron Guidry — 25-3 in the regular season — didn't throw as hard as the Dodgers had expected.

He added, "I think we can beat him. I liked the way we were swinging the bat."

Lopes also was not too unhappy in defeat, saying, "We scalded some balls out there, but we can't guide them. I've never seen a third baseman play like Nettles did."

Steve Garvey added wryly, "The trouble was that we hit the ball to Graig Nettles. We might have cut off a couple of runs with sharper fielding. Guidry was not sharp, but he perservered."

Community Affairs File
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library

John, Tommy

TJ's On The List

S OCT 1 9 1978

LOS ANGELES (AP) Tommy John, who won 37 games for the Los Angeles Dodgers the past two seasons and would have started the seventh game of the 1978 World Series, has placed his name on the free agent draft list, his agent said Wednesday.

This means the 35-year-old lefthander from Terre Haute has 15 days to come to terms with the Dodgers. After that, he will go through the reentry draft.

The Dodgers, who according to John's agent waited until this week to offer John the three-year contract he'd been seeking since last winter, will not have any advantage in the bidding for John's services.

"I would be very surprised if Tommy did not go through the free agent draft and talk to other clubs," said Bob Cohen, John's attorney and agent.

John, who didn't pitch for half of the 1974 season and all of 1975 because of a ruptured ligament in his left elbow, had a 10-10 record in 1976 and was selected the National League's comeback player of the year.

Last year he compiled a 20-7 record and this year he was 17-10. In addition, he shut out Philadelphia 4-0 in the second game of the NL playoffs and was the winner as the Dodgers whipped the New York Yankees 11-5 in the first game of the World Series.

John also started the fourth game and was not involved in the decision as the Yankees won 4-3 in 10 innings. He would have started for Los Angeles in a seventh game Wednesday night had the Yankees not wrapped up the Series in six games.

"What they did in July they should have done last December, what they did in October they should have done last April," said Cohen about negotiations with the Dodgers. "I told (Los Angeles General Manager) Al Campanis this would happen. When you wait, the price goes up."

Pic-UPI

GOING HOME—Terre Haute's Tommy John would have pitched the seventh game of the World Series for Los Angeles but it never came after the New York Yankees won in six. TJ packed his stuff, possibly for the last time as a Dodger, as he went on the free agent list Wednesday.

(over)

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File

Community Affairs File

$275,000 misunderstanding

Tommy John tests free agent status

Sp OCT 2 8 1978

By Sam Smith
Indiana News Service

This has been a difficult year for Tommy John.

Not because his Los Angeles Dodger team struggled through a three-way pennant race with the Giants and Reds. And not becasue a calf injury kept him from pitching through most of September and thus depriving him of a second consecutive 20-win season.

This has been an arduous season for the 35-year-old Terre Haute native because it may be his last in Lost Angeles, where he has had the most success during his 15 years in the major leagues and where he completed one of the most amazing comebacks for a pitcher.

John's contract is due to expire at the end of this year, and the former Gerstmeyer High School basketball star admits he's no closer to a resolution than he was earlier this year when talk developed of his testing the free-agent market.

"This has been a very draining season for me, both mentally and emotionally," John said during the World series, which the Dodgers managed to lose for the second straight year to the Yankees in six games despite heroic performances from John in games one and four. He won the first and left the fourth with a 3-2 lead in a game the Dodgers lost in 10 innings.

"I'm going to wait until the series is over, see what happens and go from there," John, whose father Tom Sr. is running for a county council seat this year, said before the Yankees took the final game 7-2. And it appears John may now be playing much closer to his childhood home.

After a mediocre career in the American League for the Chicago White Sox and Cleveland Indians when he posted an 84-91 record ("It was the White Sox who didn't have a whole lot of success, not me," John protests), he was traded to the Dodgers for slugger Richie Allen in 1972.

At first it appeared the White Sox got the better of the deal when Allen helped lead them into pennant contention for the first time in over a decade, but he soon resorted to his old ways of missing planes and team meetings and was traded.

But John prospered slowly.

He was 11-5 his first year, then 16-7 and then 13-3 at midseason in 1974 when disaster struck. He ruptured a ligiment in his left (pitching) elbow, often a fatal injury for a pitcher. But John underwent radical surgery, sat out the 1975 season and remarkably came back in 1976 to post a 10-10 record and win comeback-player-of-the-year honors.

The following year he shocked most experts by leading the Dodgers into the World Series with a 20-7 mark, his first 20-win season in his professional career. But September this year injury stopped his quest to again win 20 games, although he pitched a shutout over Philadelphia in the playoffs and stymied the Yankees in the Series, the only successful Dodger hurler.

Tommy was anxious to sign another contract with the Dodgers ("I love to play golf all year round," says the scratch golfer who regularly plays in the Bing Crosby pro-am tournament.), but asked for three years. The Dodgers offered two. An impasse.

John had wanted a longer contract after coming back from his injury in 1976, but the Dodgers balked, saying they couldn't count on his health. So John pitched to prove he was sound.

This year, however, the Dodgers pointed out John was aging, 35 being an advanced age for a pitcher.

"They hurt Tommy's pride when they wouldn't give him a long term contract because they were afraid he wouldn't come back from the injury. This time they hurt him because they said he was getting too old. I wouldn't be surprised to see him leave," said one Dodger teammate.

As for John, he maintains the sunny disposition of a man who came back when he was told he couldn't.

"All that stuff that's gone on is a million miles from me," John said after pitching possibly his final game as a Dodger in New York last week. When asked about it possibly being his last appearance in Dodger blue, John replied: "That was never in my mind.

"I'm looking forward to next year. I always look forward to next year," he said. "It doesn't make any difference to me (if I sign with the Dodgers). I hope we can work something out. If not, then no."

Before pitching that fourth game against New York, John said: "I'm pitching with a price tag on me today." And no doubt that price went up.

During initial negotiations both John and the Dodgers apparently had agreed on a contract in the neighborhood of $275,000 per year. The only problem was length. Now, however, John may be asking more.

But it's not going to affect his sense of humor.

John joked with the New York writers after game four:"It looked like (former Yankee great) Whitey Ford out there tonight. You could see that big No. 16, couldn't you?"

Then, when asked about possbily facing Yankee super pitcher Ron Guidry in game 7 (which was not necessary), John, a cunning pitcher who relies on guile to win, said mockingly: "Yea, hard throwing Tommy John vs hard throwing Ron Guidry."

And when asked by a writer about what it could mean if the Dodgers lose an inspirational player like him, John dodged the question artfully, saying: "did you say inspiration or perspiration. I sweat a lot."

After the Dodgers lost three in a row in New York, almost to a man they were complaining about the fans, the weather, the field and the umpires. But not John.

He was pitching when the most controversial play of the series occurred, a throw that the Dodgers say Reggie Jackson interfered with and could have saved them a run and won the game for them. Instead, they went back to Los Angeles one game down, where they lost game 6.

LA players, as well as manager Tom Lasorda, were moaning about the call, threatening to hit reporters and suggesting New York should be blown up for the good of the country. They were earning themselves the name "Los Angeles Crybabies."

But in all the confusion, John remained calm.

"I would have called Jackson out . . . and my wife would have called him out," John said with a slight smile, "but that's the breaks of the game. The umpire made the call and that's it. That's enough for me."

The Dodgers may not realize how much they lose if they lose Tommy John.

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John indicated after Tuesday night's game, which the Yankees won 7-2 to wrap up the Series, that he wanted to remain with the Dodgers.

But as Cohen put it Wednesday, "It's not a cut-and-dried thing. There are ambivalent feelings."

Meanwhile, Campanis said Wednesday he thought John "would like to sign with the Dodgers. We don't have an impasse.

"I think it's a very friendly relationship, they're very fine, honorable men," he added, referring to John and Cohen.

Baseball's reentry draft is scheduled Nov. 3.

John, Tommy

T OCT 3 1 1978

Contract talks are broken off

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — The Los Angeles Dodgers and veteran left-hander Tommy John are apparently parting company.

Negotiations between the 35-year-old John and the National League champions broke off Monday and Bob Cohen, John's attorney, said Dodger vice president Al Campanis told him the Dodgers would not select John in Friday's free agent re-entry draft.

John, 35, then listed 10 clubs he would sign with if selected by in the draft, including the world champion New York Yankees. The others were Boston, California, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, San Diego, St. Louis and Texas.

"In all probability," Campanis said, "we will not claim him Friday. We don't feel we want to get into a bidding war for the services of a player we already have had under contract."

"I'm perplexed and I'm disappointed," John said from his home at Yorba Linda, Calif., when asked about the Dodgers' posture. "I'm disappointed that I won't be able to play for (manager) Tommy Lasorda next season because I love him and I'm disappointed I won't be able to play with the best 25 guys in baseball — on and off the field — anymore. I'm perplexed about the negotiations. I don't understand the Dodgers' thinking. They didn't calculate I would have a good year but I had an excellent year and I had an excellent playoffs and World Series. As a result, the Dodgers were always three or four months behind."

In Monday's developments, the John side turned down the final Dodger offer and then the Dodgers rejected the final John proposal.

John posted a 17-10 record with a 3.30 ERA this season and then went 2-0 in the National League playoffs and World Series. He has won 171 major league games, 47 since hurting his arm in 1974 and miraculously coming back in 1976. He was a 20-game winner in 1977.

TOMMY JOHN

John said he felt it was the decision of Campanis, who is in charge of player personnel, and Peter O'Malley, the team's president, not to draft him Friday. But he refused to call the Dodgers, who have signed just one free agent player, reliever Terry Forster, in the two years of the re-entry draft, cheap. The Dodgers became the first club in history to draw three-million fans this past season.

"I wouldn't say that," John said when asked about the Dodgers' apparent frugality. "They just made a decision they could get somebody from their farm system to replace me."

"Tommy John is a fine young man and he has a good attorney in Bob Cohen," said Campanis. "I want to emphasize we're still on the best of terms. But we (the Dodgers) feel we have to be fair with all our players. We can either pay one man an awful lot of money or be fair to the other people we have to negotiate with."

Campanis bristled when asked if the Dodgers were opening themselves up to criticism by not trying to get John.

"Who is criticizing us?" he shot back. "We're in the field of unknowables. How do we know what the pitcher who replaces Tommy John in the rotation is going to do?

"Look at the year Bob Welch had for us this season. Nobody was certain what he was going to do. We're only trying to do the best we can. We have a certain procedure and Tommy John is entitled to leave under the new baseball rules.

"We did not make the rules and we did not ask Tommy John to leave. He is going of his own accord."

Vigo County Public Library REFERENCE DO NOT CIRCULATE Community Affairs File

John, Tommy

Tommy John remains the top prospect

His money demands remain big problem

Biog

T NOV 9 1978

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Starting pitcher Tommy John remains the top prospect, but the Milwaukee Brewers also hope to bolster their bullpen pitching crew, possibly by acquiring free agent Elias Sosa, General Manager Harry Dalton says.

Dalton said Wednesday it would not be catastrophic if the Brewers fail to sign John, but he remains the No. 1 prospect among the 10 free agents picked by the Brewers because he is "a battle-tested starter and gives you more of an option. Then you can trade for a reliever.

"If we only had to do one single thing, it would probably be strengthening the bullpen," Dalton said.

He said Sosa, a reliever for Oakland, could help the Brewers and is one of the top four free agents being sought by Milwaukee.

As for John, the veteran from the Los Angeles Dodgers, "he might have contract demands beyond reason," Dalton said. "It depends on the money, what the deferral is, salary, bonus. You have to put all those things in one package."

Dalton said he has been in contact "either directly or with their agents" with all 10 of the free agents the Brewers picked.

"We haven't made any firm offers," he said. "We're still trying to determine what they want besides salary."

Dalton, commenting as the Brewers officially opened season ticket sales for next season, said his team was not "hard pressed against the wall" and probably would not sign more than one free agent.

He noted that Moose Haas should be returning to action and another starter, Bill Travers, who returned last season from arm surgery "will be 18 months removed from surgery."

The Brewers finished third behind New York and Boston in the American League East with the best finish in the club's history.

"With improvements here and there, we have as much chance of winning as any club," Dalton said.

Dick Hackett, vice president of marketing, said the club's goal is to sell 5,000 season tickets for next season, compared with about 2,500 sold last season.

Larry Hisle, who joined the Brewers as a free agent last year, was reported to have curtailed his daily postseason training schedule after suffering strained neck muscles in a traffic accident Nov. 1.

TOMMY JOHN

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

John, Tommy

Tommy John contract is studied

Dodgers never close to salary demands

T NOV 1 8 1978

BY MELVIN DURSLAG
King Feature

LOS ANGELES—It isn't known specifically what Tommy John, the celebrated lefthander, asked in the way of salary from the Dodgers.

But you gather he wasn't keeping his request as low as the sinkers he throws, judging from the fact Los Angeles admits the two sides were a half-million dollars apart on a contract that would have run three years.

So, at this point, nothing is certain except Tommy has joined Pete Rose in flight next season, taking his skills to another station willing to gamble on an aging product.

Baseball never has warmed your heart with its sentimentality. Labor and management have gone at each other for more than a half-century. In fact, it was as far back as the Black Sox (in 1919) that a World Series was dumped to recover money not forthcoming from a nickel-and-dime ownership.

But the principal difference today is, the players have an option. If they can't agree with ownership over pay, they avail themselves of something called a re-entry draft, allowing them to bargain with other entities.

And that's what Tommy John has done, ending an association with the Dodgers that began seven years ago.

Breaking down this interesting case into its basic components, you begin with the simple assessment of John as a person— intelligent, rational, clean, and of major value to a club in a community relations sense.

All of this—and an ERA of 1.90—will get you a hamburger sandwich in baseball, especially if you happen to be age 36, the age John will turn next year.

Well-Heeled

But unmistakably, Tommy is one of the premiere pitchers of the National League, and he takes the position the Dodgers are amply equipped to pay him, having done more business than any team in the history of baseball.

Also acknowledging that one's tenure is short in his form of commerce, Tommy feels he must dredge from it what he can while the market is still on the upswing.

There is reason to believe he may be thinking of as much as $2-million for three years, with bonus, guarantees and the like.

And even if he doesn't get it, he has reason to suspect others in baseball will pay more than Los Angeles.

"We're reluctant to guarantee large dollars, long-term, to a pitcher who has had injuries," says Peter O'Malley, president of the Dodgers. "Tommy also has an age problem. He probably will be able to pitch at 36 and 37. But we're worried about 1981. Tommy likens himself to Gaylord Perry and Warren Spahn, but we still feel baseball is a young man's game, and we maintain a big farm system expressly to help us rebuild."

O'Malley says he will not be shocked if John gets as much as $1-million more than the Dodger ceiling from another club, anxious to enrich itself with a good lefthander.

Who that generous bidder would be is hard to say, but wages in the past haven't stopped George Steinbrenner, whose books are crammed with so many payments downstream that feeding one more wouldn't matter.

Players on the Yankees implore George to watch his health.

They help him across the street and tell him to exercise caution doing beer commercials with Billy Martin, warning him of Billy's sneaky right.

Steinbrenner owes the players so much money that they tremble merely envisioning any mishap to him.

Ripe For Picking

Then Ray Kroc and Gene Autry are perennial prospects to sign talent such as John and Rose. Each time they offer great sums for a player, it is explained that they are in their 70's and don't have too much time remaining to catch a winner.

Why should they care whether the money goes to players, or to inheritance tax?

Well, Walter O'Malley, also in his 70's, should have the same attitude, except that Walter will yet work out a way to give his money to neither.

Actually, he would pay Tommy John $1-million a year, provided John agreed to play golf with O'Malley by Walter's rules. Those rules call for Walter to keep score and be the sole judge of unplayable lies.

Community Affairs File
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library

John, Tommy

Community Affairs File

Multi-year contract; deferred payments

Biog

T NOV 2 2 1978

By MARK FRIEDMAN
UPI Sports Writer

NEW YORK (UPI) — Continuing the practice of building on an already solid foundation, the New York Yankees today signed free agent pitcher Tommy John, the man with the bionic arm.

The world champion Yankees announced the signing at an 11 a.m. press conference.

John, a 35-year-old left-hander for the Los Angeles Dodgers and a veteran of 15 major-league seasons, agreed to a multi-year contract with provisions for deferred payments.

He now joins Luis Tiant — who was signed by New York from Boston only nine days ago — to perhaps give the Yankees the best pitching staff in baseball.

"We definitely have to do something about our left-handed pitching," Yankee President Al Rosen said last week.

Now it is done. After two straight championships, a third looms on the horizon.

Team officials last night would only repeat that "a major announcement at a press conference Wednesday morning" would take place, but John's lawyer, Bob Cohen, was "out of town" when called at his Los Angeles office. He and Rosen have been negotiating steadily since the Yanks tabbed John as their No. 1 pick in the re-entry draft Nov. 5.

John was also reported to be flying east to New York Tuesday. He had been asking for a three-year contract which Yankee owner George Steinbrenner has apparently agreed to. John also had been requesting $1 million in deferred payments, but it was not known if that concession were made.

In his career, John has posted a 171-133 record, 47 of the victories coming after Dr. Frank Jobe successfully reconstructed John's left arm in a highly celebrated operation. Jobe surgically removed a tendon from the pitcher's right arm and transplanted it into the left.

For months, John's arms were useless. He had to be fed and clothed by his wife while his left hand, slow to recover, was knotted in a clenched ball of muscle. He was offered little hope of ever pitching again by doctors, but John was determined to make one more go of it.

Since the 1975 operation, the left-hander has won 10, 20 and 17 games in three seasons and helped the Dodgers to National League pennants in each of the past two seasons. A finesse pitcher with radar-like control, John provides the Yankees with another fine lefty to complement Cy Young Award winner Ron Guidry. He will also be part of a rotation that includes Ed Figueroa and Catfish Hunter.

In the 1975 free agent draft, the Yankees began dangling millions of dollars in front of the eyes of the game's biggest names and hooked Reggie Jackson and Don Gullett with the bait. The year before, Hunter signed for $3 million and in 1977 Rich Gossage was lured over.

The signing of John by the Yankees comes as a disappointment to the Cincinnati Reds, who until Monday thought they had a virtual lock on his services. Cohen had met with with Reds President Dick Wagner for several hours on the West Coast, but obviously received a better offer from New York.

(over)

Tommy John signs with Yankees

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File

John, Travis

RETURNING HOME — Two-year-old Travis John, son of New York Yankee pitcher Tommy John, waves as he leaves the NYU Medical Center Thursday. The youngster was hospitalized after falling from a third floor window last month. UPI

Community Affairs File

Travis John leaves hospital

SEP 1 1 1981

NEW YORK (AP) — Applause and cheers greeted 2½-year-old Travis John as he blew kisses to nurses while leaving the hospital where he lay close to death for several weeks.

His father, Yankee pitcher Tommy John, is "looking forward to concentrating on baseball again," since "we don't have to hope and pray Travis will live for the next hour or the next day."

Travis, wearing a Yankee cap and uniform with his father's No. 25 on the back, walked out of New York University Medical Center Thursday after almost three weeks on the critical list and another in satisfactory condition. He was injured Aug. 13 when he fell from the third floor of a house at the New Jersey shore.

John and his wife, Sally, have spent 18 hours a day at the hospital, except when he would join the Yankees to pitch.

The family took home a gigantic stuffed tiger and some smaller toys but most of the dozens of other gifts sent to the child were distributed to children throughout the hospital. Some 2,000 cards and letters also were received.

"It's a beautiful fall day," said John, adding, "Now we have to get Travis ready for the playoffs because the doctors are going to come to a game."

Vigo County Public Library
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Community Affairs File

STEINBRENNER BUYS JOHN — The New York Yankees, continuing the practice of building on an already solid foundation, signed free agent Pitcher Tommy John, the man with the bionic arm, Wednesday. The Yankees announced the signing late this morning.
UPI

John, Tommy

Book Review

'The Tommy John Story'

TS 1/21/79

By CLAUDE BILLINGS

More than sports fans in the Wabash Valley know many details about the "Tommy John Story" (Fleming H. Revell Company, $6.95). There is much more to it than the "dream come true" of the Terre Haute boy who wanted to become a great baseball pitcher, and who has finally made it.

This book is not just another sports celebrity biography. "It is an inspiring account of a faith—a man's faith in himself." But it really is more than just that. It is a tender, even romantic personal story of Terre Haute's great young baseball pitcher who has recently signed on as one of the million dollar pitching staff of the New York Yankees.

Cincinnati, Atlanta and Kansas City all offered John more money, but the great lefthander went for the pinstripes to join those other famous pitchers in what is probably the most sparkling pitching staff ever assembled in one club. "I took less from the Yankees," John said, "because it was an opportunity to play in the best city in baseball."

Tommy John has a great record as a pitcher with a sinker ball that baffles many batters, but he has had tough breaks. While pitching against the Montreal Expos in 1974, Tommy felt a sudden tearing sensation in his pitching arm. The doctors who examined him said he would never pitch again—his arm was permanently crippled. But Tommy "refused to give up, trusting in God's plan for his life. His wife Sally forced her doubts aside, supporting and encouraging him throughout his seemingly hopeless battle to regain the use of his arm." It took him almost two years after the painful operations to recover and pitch again.

Tommy John and his wife Sally met on campus at Indiana State University, and after some sparring finally admitted they were in love and got married. Both are deeply religious persons and true family people. This story reveals their great love and respect for each other and tells how the dark hours of despair were suffered through with prayer and faith in God.

Manager Tom Lasorda of the Los Angeles Dodgers once said: "Having a young man like Tommy John pitch for me is every manager's dream. He's a man who gives of himself at all times, an unselfish pitcher who ignores his own individual achievements and is solely concerned with team effort. Tommy John is a tremendous athlete and competitor, but above all he's an outstanding young man."

Tommy tells the story of his father's directions, coaching and encouragement. He tells how he learned, through long hours of practice, to throw a fast ball, a curve, and his famed sinker pitch. He gives much credit for his success to his father who brought him through Little League to Class A ball.

Although Tommy John Sr. had played semi-pro ball in his youth, he gave it up when a daughter was born to him. His interest quickly renewed when he discovered his son's great interest in the game. He let Tommy join his Little League team when young Tom was 10 years old. He had already pitched as an eight-year-old in the Spencer Park Recreational League. His dad soon came to his help teaching him how to bunt, field and throw, as well as pitch.

This is a family story. Sally, John and her family are discussed, and the two children they have take on importance from their interesting parents. It captures the emotional and spiritual drama of two young lives in their dreams of success in their chosen field.

Tommy John has played during his professional career with the Cleveland Indians, the Chicago White Sox, and the Los Angeles Dodgers. Now he has signed with the New York Yankees and his fans—and they are legion—are expecting him to turn in a great season.

This is an inspirational book. You will be proud to have it on your coffee table.

Claude Billings' book reviews also appear in the daily Terre Haute Star.

John, Tommy 1s 2/26/18 John, Tommy Biography

BASEBALL'S MOST HEROIC COMEBACK

No player heading for spring training this week has overcome as much as Tommy John has in his fight back to the top.

Donna Buys

John with children and wife Sally

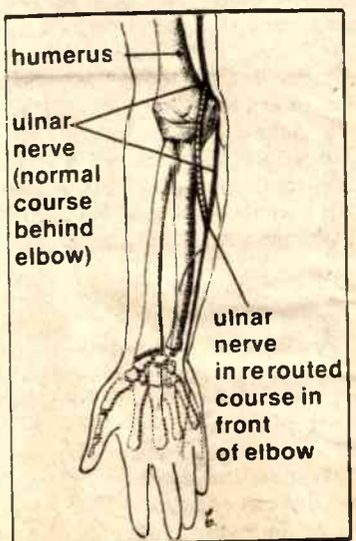
By Donna Buys

He was told he would never play baseball again. He was told he may be permanently handicapped. He was told he was "flaky" for trying to play.

Those are just some of the things people said to Los Angeles Dodger pitcher Tommy John following an operation on his elbow in 1974. But the laugh was on them. In 1977 he had his finest season, winning 20 games and finishing second in the National League in the Cy Young voting.

The injury that nearly ended John's career occurred in July of 1974, when a tendon ruptured in his pitching elbow during a game in Montreal. Two months later he went into surgery. When team physician Frank Jobe came out of the operating room he told John's wife Sally: "The worst has happened. Tommy had a torn ligament that was shredded, and the muscles were damaged. The elbow area must be rebuilt."

Miraculously, Dr. Jobe, Dr. Herbert Stark and a team of seven other doctors put John's arm back together. They took a ligament from the right arm and transplanted it to his left arm. Dr. Jobe told Sally: "It's an operation that's never been done before, and we don't know if it's going to work. If that kid ever pitches again, it's going to be more than human work. When he gets out of the hospital, you'll have to prepare him to start thinking about what he'll do when he gets out of baseball because I think that day's just around the corner."



Along with rerouting the ulnar nerve, doctors transplanted a ligament from the right arm.

When John heard from Dr. Jobe that he might never pitch again, he thanked him for his concern but said to Sally, "Don't worry, everything's going to be O.K. I'm gonna pitch again."

Three months later he suffered a setback and had to have another operation. His hand was curling up like a gorilla's: he couldn't hold a knife and fork. Scar tissue from the transplant operation had choked off the ulna nerve, so no messages could get through to tell the fingers to move. Dr. Jobe scraped and rerouted the nerve from under the elbow to the top.

it was God's will that he would return to baseball.

When the cast was taken off after 16 weeks, Sally recalls, "The arm was a shriveled mess of bones, like a skeleton with dead skin." It was bent upward and almost immovable, but he was able to straighten the arm. He bought some Silly Putty and worked it with his fingers. He swam in his pool and took two or three hot showers a day, moving the arm under the hot water to improve the circulation, and he ran 4 to 8 miles a day. He also ate high protein foods and took large quantities of vitamins B and C. The payoff came when he could move his little finger. The nerve was working again.

A month after the last cast was removed, he went to spring training. He recalls: "The other ball players looked at me like, 'You're crazy to be here at Dodger Stadium; you're wasting your gas driving here.'" With skepticism they asked him, "Do you think you're gonna pitch again?" Sports writers made fun of him, calling him, "Tommy, the flaky left-hander." When he proclaimed that he planned to pitch again, they replied, "It's great to have confidence, but you have to be realistic."

John started throwing like a 10-year-old, and because he didn't want to waste a catcher's time, he practiced by throwing against a wall. One afternoon after he had been throwing for 20 minutes, Ben Wade the Dodgers' director of scouting, asked him if his arm hurt. When Tommy said "No," Wade said, "If you're telling the truth, you're going to pitch again." At this stage, Wade and Dodger manager Tom Lasorda were the only two people in baseball who had any confidence in Tommy John's comeback.

John made that comeback on April 16, 1976, against the Atlanta Braves. He lost the game, but he regained his confidence. In his next game against Houston, he pitched seven innings of shutout ball. He pitched his regular rotation for 207 innings, won 10 games, lost 10, and received the Fred Hutchinson Award for Courage and the Comeback Player of the Year Award.

(Free)

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File

John, Tommy

Tommy John beats Montreal for 16th win

Community Affairs File

Southpaw talks about winning Cy Young award for his work

Blue
T AUG 3 0 1978

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — With his 16th victory of the season secured, Tommy John sent his thoughts wandering through some pleasant pastures.

"Lots of things went through my mind," John said, "20 wins and a possible Cy Young Award if I would win a few more starts."

John, whose six-hitter led the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 4-1 triumph over the Montreal Expos Tuesday night, joins Vida Blue of the San Francisco Giants, Phil Niekro of the Atlanta Braves and Ross Grimsley of the Montreal Expos as 16-game winners in the National League.

John also had the World Series on his mind.

"If we play the kind of ball we are capable of playing, everything is in our hands," the left-hander said.

Joe Ferguson's three-run homer in the fourth inning assured John of his victory.

"I've changed my whole approach and style of hitting," said a Ferguson. "Everything is falling in place now."

Ferguson, plagued with hitting problems this season, said he went to Dodger Manager Tommy Lasorda for help. Lasorda sent him to senior coach Jim Gilliam.

"I'm employing a wider stance and standing closer to the plate," Ferguson continued. "I've leveled my swing and I'm not over striding.

"And, I'm not fooled by pitches like I was earlier in the year."

The victory enabled the first-place Dodgers to maintain their one-game lead over San Francisco in the National League West.

The game also was a milestone for Steve Garvey. A sacrifice fly drove in his 600th run as a Dodger.

The Dodgers end their series against Montreal tonight when Don Sutton, 12-10, faces Expo Dan Schatzeder, 6-4.

MONTREAL	ab	r	h	bi	LOS ANGELES	ab	r	h	bi
Cash 2b	5	0	1	0	Lopes 2b	4	1	1	0
Mejias lf	4	0	2	0	Russell ss	4	0	0	0
Dawson cf	4	0	0	0	Smith rf	2	0	1	0
Valentine rf	4	1	1	0	Garvey 1b	3	1	1	1
Cromartı 1b	3	0	0	0	Cey 3b	3	1	1	0
Carter c	4	0	1	0	Martinez 3b	0	0	0	0
Parrish 3b	3	0	1	1	Lacy lf	4	0	0	0
Speier ss	2	0	0	0	Ferguson c	2	1	1	3
Dues p	2	0	0	0	Oates c	3	0	2	0
Twitchell p	0	0	0	0	North cf	1	0	0	0
Papi ph	1	0	0	0	John p	4	0	0	0
Garman p	0	0	0	0					
Frias ph	1	0	0	0					
Totals	33	1	6	1	Totals			30	4 7

Montreal 010 000 000— 1
Los Angeles 000 310 00x— 4

E—Lacy 2, Comartie. DP—Los Angeles 1. LOB—Montreal 10, Los Angeles 8. 2B—Mejias, Garvey. HR—Ferguson (13). SB—Cromartie, Speier, Lopes. S— Mejias. SF—Garvey

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Dues (L 5-6)	4 2-3	5	4	4	4	2
Twitchell	1-3	0	0	0	0	0
Garman	3	2	0	0	1	3
John (W 16-9)	9	6	1	0	4	6

T—2 31 A—37,179

Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

"I believe," says John, "that the greatest gift God gives us is an ability to excel, and our greatest gift we can return to God is to cultivate those abilities to the fullest. You can lose a ball game, yet you are a winner if you put forth every ability that God gave you."

As Tommy John prepares for this season, he's more determined than ever. For starters, he does something different from any other pitcher. "Most pitchers rest the day after they have pitched," he explains, "but I practice for about 10 minutes for four consecutive days. Then I rest the day before I pitch."

His attitude has also changed: "My thinking about baseball now is to go out on that mound and give every ability that God gave me, even if we're winning 20 to nothing. I never back off."

John, Tommy

Community Affairs File

John explains why he took Yank offer

T NOV 23 1978

NEW YORK (UPI) — A step up "from a Cadillac to a Rolls-Royce" may mean a smoother ride for the New York Yankees in their quest for a third consecutive world championship.

Tommy John, the sinkerballing left-hander with the reconstructed elbow, Wednesday signed a three-year, $1.4 million contract with the Yankees despite receiving offers of more money from at least three other teams.

The 35-year-old John became a free agent this year after seven seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers and admitted that Cincinnati, Atlanta and Kansas City each offered him "substantially more" money than the Yankees. However, he said the winning tradition of the world champions was the overriding factor in his decision to sign with them.

"I took less money from the Yankees," admitted John, "but it's not very often you have an opportunity to play for a team like the Yankees. I said when I was traded from the White Sox to the Dodgers for Dick Allen (in 1971) that it was like going from a Chevy to a Cadillac. This is like going from a Cadillac to a Rolls-Royce.

"The Yankees are a class organization and they've had the best team in baseball the last two years. It's an opportunity to come to the big city and play for the best team. Cincinnati, Atlanta and Kansas offered me substantially more money, but they're not New York."

The signing of John represents yet another piece of valuable artillery in what has evolved into a potentially awesome Yankee pitching arsenal.

Only 10 days ago, the Yankees signed right-hander Luis Tiant, who played out his option with Boston, and the team now boasts a starting rotation of five pitchers — Ron Guidry, Ed Figueroa, John, Tiant and Jim "Catfish" Hunter — who have each had at least one 20-victory season in the past four years. They also have Jim Beattie, who distinguished himself by winning a game in the playoffs and the World Series.

"In signing John we have taken a giant step toward obtaining a third straight world championship," said Yankees' President Al Rosen.

Over the last two seasons, John won 37 games for the Dodgers while helping them to two consecutive NL pennants. In pursuing John, Yankee owner George Steinbrenner said the team's dependable infield and spacious ballpark would enable the sinkerball pitcher to become a 20-game winner again. John was 20-7 for the Dodgers in 1977 before dropping off to 17-10 last season.

Although his contract with the Yankees is for three years with the option of a fourth, John feels he can pitch for another five or six seasons.

"My arm is only four years old," he quipped, referring to the tendon transplant in his left elbow he underwent in 1974. "It doesn't have the wear and tear of 25 years of pitching."

Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

Sporting AROUND with Jimmy Claus

TS DEC 3 1979

Bucs

TOMMY JOHN'S inspirational 30-minute film has just been released and will be shown to hundreds of Father-Son banquets and similar affairs across the nation.

Tommy John Sr., remarked he had seen the film this past week at the Terre Haute Maplewood Christian Church.

The senior John smiled and said with obvious parental pride, "It was thrilling to me. The film covers about everything in Tommy's life. It shows his faith in God.

"The playoff game he pitched against Philadelphia in the rain is one of the highlights. They even came out to our house and shot film for four hours."

The film is a strong testimony to an athlete who was brought up correctly and never gave up on himself.

Groups wishing to rent the film may contact "Sacred Film, 2000 N. Meridan, Indianapolis, Ind. 46202." The film, covering rent, postage and handling comes to a total $37.07.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

John, Tommy

DEC 8 1978

B17
J

TOMMY JOHN'S $1.4 million contract with the New York Yankees is spread out to cover more than just three years.

The agreement, which includes an option for a fourth year of pitching, consists of signing a bonus of about $350,000 to be paid over four years, an annual salary of about $185,000, an insurance policy and deferred payments to be paid, beginning in 1983, over 20 years, during which time John will serve as a special assignment scout for the Yankees.

During the negotiations, John asked the Yankee front office about the status of Billy Martin, the former manager, who is supposed to be the manager in 1980.

They were quiet on that issue and weren't all that informative, but Tommy was satisfied with their explanation.

John's lawyer, Robert Cohen from Los Angeles is 37, just two years older than Tommy.

Vigo County Public Library
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Community Affairs File

John, Tommy

Tommy John among most sought players

Bio

NOV 4 1978

NEW YORK (UPI) — The big bucks won't be flying around quite to the extent that they have in past seasons, but at least six players emerged from baseball's third annual free agent reentry draft Friday in a strong position to fatten their wallets.

When the selecting had finally ceased, the players most in demand were pitchers Tommy John of Los Angeles, Larry Gura of Kansas City, Jim Slaton of Detroit and Elias Sosa of Oakland, plus outfielder Lee Lacy of Los Angeles and third baseman Pete Rose of Cincinnati.

The negotiating rights to Gura, Slaton and Sosa each were selected by the maximum of 13 teams. In addition, each of the pitchers' current teams opted to retain negotiating rights, giving Gura, Slaton and Sosa 14 teams to bargain with. John and Lacy also were named by 13 teams but the Dodgers, strongly opposed to the free agent system, elected to forfeit their option to retain negotiating rights to them.

Rose, a 37-year-old perennial All-Star who hit safely in a National League record 44 games last season, was picked by 12 teams plus the Reds. Rose, who hit .302, had 198 hits and scored 103 runs, is considered the most attractive property in the free agent market this year.

Despite his age, Rose has shown few signs of slowing up and is one of baseball's top box office attractions. The New York Mets made Rose the first selection in the draft but that was regarded merely as a public relations ploy. The Mets have been unwilling to spend large sums on free agents and General Manager Joe McDonald said his team did not expect to sign Rose.

"I'd put him down toward the bottom of our list," McDonald said.

Reuven Katz, Rose's agent, attended the draft at a New York hotel and said he was eager to begin negotiations.

"We're absolutely wide open with 12 teams and the Reds interested in Pete," Katz said. "We'll talk to all of them with an open mind. As for him staying in Cincinnati, there's some chance but it's not too good."

Philadelphia is expected to make a serious pitch for Rose. The Phils named him first, as did Atlanta, San Diego and Texas. Also selecting rights to bargain with Rose were California, Cleveland, Kansas City, Los Angeles, the Yankees, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and the Reds.

John, the 35-year-old left-hander who won 37 games for the Dodgers the last two years, was the only other player taken five times on the first round. John was named first by Cincinnati, Kansas City, Milwaukee, the Yankees and St. Louis. He was also taken by Atlanta, California, the Mets, Oakland, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Diego and Texas.

Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

Bcog

Community Affairs File

Tommy John to find Yanks are different

T DEC 7 1978

By MELVIN DURSLGg
King Features Syndicate

Discovering Tommy John in the South Bronx, you naturally begin by inquiring, "What's a nice kid like you doing in a place like this?"

I mean, does he not owe it to his hubcaps to find a job somewhere else? Would he want his Sunday school teacher to hear what comes out of the seats? On a balmy summer night, would Tommy advise his friends from Terre Haute to stroll along the neighborhood streets?

Announcing that he is going to the Rolls-Royce of baseball, Tommy had better remember to keep his doors locked.

John is no bumpkin in the profession he pursues. Soon to begin his 16th year in the major leagues, approaching the age of 36, he is wise enough to know that loyalties in this business are counterfeit.

Dodger blue...Dodger class...the great Dodger in the sky...all catchphrases that will buy a player nothing in the years ahead when he is reading the classified ads and pounding the pavement, looking for employment.

Since baseball is big industry, Tommy understands the corporate definition of a guy who is loyal. A loyal employee is one who will work cheap.

End of the Line

So, when his contract expired and Los Angeles made it clear it wouldn't enter into the kind of bidding featured in today's market, John was left with no logical reason to stay with the Dodgers.

It is hoped, however, he doesn't delude himself into thinking that the Yankees offer anything more special than money.

If he feels so, he can check with Sparky Lyle, who couldn't wait to leave. He also can check with Ken Holtzman and Rawly Eastwick.

One man's Rolls is another man's ricksaw.

Nor can one who studies the Yankees find the club a blissful paradise, inhabited by joyous members. They are owned by a very erratic individual whose moods change dramatically and who runs a wide range from philanthropy and benevolence to nickelgrubbing and meanness.

John will appreciate George Steinbrenner's pay, but he will find that the O'Malleys were easier to live with.

At Tommy's age, the pay is more important.

Then he will discover that Reggie Jackson will be stirring even more hell in '79 than in '78 over his placement in the company as designated hitter.

Reggie's dislike for that station is spectacular. He feels more comfortable in the outfield and will make the Yankees, life miserable if they continue to consign him to d.h.

Then catching John behind the plate will be a chronic griper named Thurman Munson, who actually asked to be traded to Cleveland, but probably thanked God and made a donation to charity when his request was ignored.

Nor will Tommy find Mickey Rivers an enraptured teammate. Mickey and the Yankees do enough arguing to be married.

Last and least

And if Billy Martin returns as manager in 1980, John will detect a spectacularly bitter fellow-staffer in Ed Figueroa, who openly detests Martin and hopes he never comes back.

The disagreement that Tommy noted among quarreling factions of the Dodgers will melt in scope compared to the beefing he witnesses on the Yankees.

But, of course, he will be cast together with people who know how to play, and the locale will be exciting, because more commotion developes at Yankee Stadium than in any other park.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File

Tommy John Sr., Jr., interested in strike

Biographer Tribune 7-2-81

By JIMMY CLAUS

Tommy John Sr., doesn't know what to make of the big league strike, saying he hasn't talked to his son, Tommy Jr., who pitches for the Yankees in recent weeks.

"He was here for two or three days shortly before the strike," recalls the senior John.

In preparing to make a road trip with the Yankees, Tommy was packing his equipment and reached into a zipper bag where he keeps his shaving gear and unfortunately cut the point of his pitching finger.

He informed the Yankees of the accident and did not make the road trip, being placed on the disabled list.

"I was listening to Harry Caray the other night from Chicago and on his radio show he asked for suggestions to resolve the strike," said Tommy John Sr.

"One fellow called in and suggested all of the owners get together and agree not to sign any free agents."

The senior John noted, "Harry commented he didn't think that was legal and I'm inclined to agree with him.

"I read in the Sporting News where my son suggested that everybody in the major leagues be declared free agents."

That's a possibility but it's difficult seeing the owners agreeing to such a proposal.

Tommy Sr., doesn't think there would be a strike today if the late Walter O'Malley was still alive and ran the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"There was a driving force, a person they all listened to," stated Tommy Sr.

There's no doubt O'Malley was the most dynamic force among the owners. He got things done which nobody else would tackle.

"I see where Marvin Miller has come back into the picture and that Bobby Murcer and Reggie Jackson attended the most recent negotiations," said Tommy Sr.

"I really don't think much will happen very soon, however."

Sporting Around

Tommy's status with the Yankees remains in limbo.

"I understand he's got a year's option with the Yankees which means he could still be with them next year, but I really don't know."

That's up to Tommy and the Yankees when they sit down and talk.

The senior John didn't think the Dodgers should have let his son go, that it was a big mistake.

"Tommy wanted a three-year contract and the most they would give him was two years. They didn't think his arm would hold up.

"Tommy assured them it would not drop off."

The Dodgers, according to the senior John, have an outstanding organization.

Al Campanis of the Dodgers didn't believe the veteran southpaw would last, but time has proven him wrong.

Sally and Tommy Jr., appeared on Wednesday's NBC's "Today Show" along with Mookie Wilson of the New York Mets and his wife.

Tommy explained that such immortals as Al Kaline, Ernie Banks and Brooks Robinson, in the past, have gone to bat in negotiations with the owners for the generation of players proceeding them and he was doing the same thing.

Mookie and his wife listened carefully and didn't say much. He did admit it was costly living in New York City without a regular paycheck.

Other changes were noted by Sally who explained that before the strike Tommy generally ate around 3:30 p.m. and left for Yankee Stadium, returning around midnight for a meal before going to bed.

Now, their eating hours are different, with dinner around 6 p.m.

The Johns have three children: Tammy 6, Tommy III, who will be 4 Aug. 31 and Travis, to be 3 Dec. 6.

Kurt Hunt, director of Group Sales for the Indianapolis Indians, was in Terre Haute this week, citing the advantages of seeing American Association baseball, particularly at Bush Stadium.

Hunt, a native of North Liberty, Ind., and a graduate of Butler University, spoke from the heart when he said: "Indianapolis is a big city with the heart and feelings of a small city."

Hunt, 22, was asked about his athletic career. He reeled off his many injuries from playing football, admitting athletes must learn to play in pain.

"However, I spent too much time in the hospital," he said, recalling his assorted injuries and decided to get into the front office.

In addition to handling ticket sales, he is the public address system announcer for home games and stadium superintendent at Bush Stadium.

Manager John McNamara of the Cincinnati Reds is becoming acquainted with I-74 between Indianapolis and Cincy. He commutes between the two cities when the Indianapolis Indians have a home game.

When the traveling finally wears him out, he plans to stay in an Indy hotel — but until then he will travel back and forth.

In previous seasons, McNamara's only opportunity to see the farm hands was in spring training or late in the schedule when some of them were brought up to the big club.

Bush Stadium has been called by some a "miniature Wrigley Field" with its ivy covered wall and brick motif.

The state baseball tourney, the marching band festival and many college functions are held there.

Hunt brought up an interesting fact about the major league baseball strike. If it continues through all of July and into August, many sports fans will start becoming attracted to football.

The pro camps open in mid July and the colleges around the country start workouts Aug. 15.

John, Tommy (Jr. + Sr.)

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

JOHN, TOMMY

John Chosen For All-Stars

T.H. Sports

T.H. Star 6/28/68

By TOM RECK
Star Sports Editor

Young Tommy John, 24-year-old Chicago White Sox pitcher from Terre Haute, joined a select group of baseball players Thursday.

The "veteran" Chisox hurler was selected by Boston Manager Dick Williams for the American League All-Star team which will play the National League's best in the world-famous Houston Astrodome the night of July 9.

Currently spending two weeks in Alpena, Michigan, at Phelps Collins Air Base as a member of the Indiana Air National Guard on summer maneuvers, John was somewhat surprised at being named to the squad.

"I thought maybe I had a chance but if I didn't make it that was okay, too," he said. "I was going to spend a couple days at home with the folks (Mr. and Mrs. Tom John Sr.) if I wasn't going to play," he said by telephone Thursday afternoon.

As it is, the only undefeated (6-0) major league pitcher with more than five decisions will have little time to prepare for the annual all-star game, which the National League leads and is favored in this summer.

He departed for summer camp last Friday and will be

See TOMMY JOHN
On Page 19, Column 7

Continued From Page 1

in Michigan until July 6. In the meantime, he is scheduled to be flown to Detroit this Sunday to pitch against the Tigers but he hasn't had much of an opportunity to work out since he last pitched (a week ago Thursday, when he beat Cleveland 8-4 for his sixth victory).

"It's rained seven of the nine days we've been up here and I haven't thrown once in that time," said John. "I felt good last week, though, and shouldn't have given up but one run," he noted.

The Indians took a 3-0 lead against John in the first inning of that game. The Chisox hurler himself slipped in trying to field a ball with two outs, prolonging the inning and giving the Tribe its chance to score.

Even though those runs were counted as "earned", John's ERA for the year is 1.69.

With the lack of hitting by the White Sox this spring, any pitcher would have to have that low an ERA or better to maintain a 6-0 mark. In fact, his being undefeated at this point has to rate as one of the 1968 success stories of the American League.

Signed out of Gerstmeyer High School, John became one of the youngest pitchers ever to make the majors. Now, he becomes one of the youngest hurlers to be accorded All-Star laurels.

And if he gets into the game, John will be the first Terre Haute native to play in the annual summer series. Dizzy Trout had a 27-14 record in 1944 and a 20-12 log in 1945 but he didn't get into the 1944 contest and no 1945 game against the Nationals was played because of the war.

His running mate at Detroit, Hal Newhouser, made it into the '45 game.

Other major leaguers from Terre Haute since 1940 have been Harry Taylor, with Brooklyn and Bost (AL), and Bill Butland with the Red Sox on, both as pitchers, but neither hurler pitched in an All-Star game.

John had a shot at making the American League Stars last year but his Chisox mates, Joe Horlen and Gary Peters, made it instead. The Terre Haute lefty had an 8-5 mark at this stage of the game last year and had chalked up five shutouts in the process.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA
Community Affairs File

Biography

Vigo County

Ramblin' Reck

Community Affairs

By Tom Reck

Star Sports Editor

JUL 15 1975

ST. LOUIS — "They're as optimistic now as they were pessimistic before the season started," Tommy John of the Los Angeles Dodgers said in the St. Louis clubhouse Sunday.

"They" are the Dodger officials and doctors who didn't think there was "any way" T. J. of Terre Haute would pitch this year after practically having a new elbow put in his pitching arm last year. Maybe next year; not this one.

Tommy continues to travel with the Dodgers even though he's been on the disabled list since the season started. Sunday, he threw batting practice and then worked some more in the bullpen before dressing and watching the game from the stands as the Cardinals took their second straight 2-1 decision from the Dodgers.

"Ordinarily, I work four or five days, then take a day off, usually Sunday. Since we have the all-star break with three days off, I pitched today," he said.

+ + +

In addition to working out on the field, T. J. has been taking whirlpool treatments since last year and uses a muscle stimulater to aid progress.

"It's just going to take so long to heal. All I can do is wait on it. My fast ball is good enough to get guys out now but I can't get the proper grip for my curve ball . . . sometimes it sails. Too, my arm gets tired after throwing what I am now but my ARM is not going to keep me from pitching again," John said.

He says the lack of grip is due to the lack of a nerve not functioning. He proceeded to show a callous on the tip of his thumb. "Ordinarily, I would be gripping more toward the middle," he said, pointing to the joint in his thumb.

JUL 15 1975

T. J. — Travelin'

"Chances are better and better I will be pitching again, if not this year, positively next year," he said. "There was no way they said I would be this far along now. They had nothing to base it on," he said.

He pointed to Gary Nolan, making a comeback with Cincinnati this year. "They said he would never pitch again. He's throwing the ball very well now," John noted.

About his progress, he said "It's not something you notice on a day-to-day basis. But compared to where I was and how I felt in spring training, it's a lot."

+ + +

Looking to the National League West, where the Dodgers trail Cincy by 12 and ½ games after Sunday — about where LA was last year this time —Tommy admits it would take a winning streak and some losing on the part of the Reds for the Dodgers to repeat as West champs.

Being optimistic, he says, "They've done it twice, coming on to win two years ago and almost doing it last year. Maybe we can this year."

"We would have won those games last year," he said, talking about Saturday's 2-1 game St. Louis won in the 10th inning. Sunday's game was about the same, the Cards breaking a 1-1 tie in the ninth to win.

Al Hrabosky, who was passed over by LA manager Walt Alston when he picked National League All-Stars and who was booed by Card fans during the weekend because of the oversight, was the winner in both games. Mike Marshall, chosen by Alston from his own staff, took one of the losses.

Hrabosky, the subject of banners Saturday on the occasion of his not being picked to the NL team, was named player of the week in the league Monday. He has 14 saves and has an ERA under two.

+ + +

As a side note, Tommy was 13-3 about this time last year when he injured his arm. Put that mark in this year's Dodger mark and LA would be 59-32 instead of 49-42—if we figure correctly—and would be having a horse race with Cincy, now 61-29.

That's just supposing. The Dodgers have had other injuries this year too and all has played a part in their letdown.

Meanwhile, Pittsburgh continues to lead NL East totals. That belabored Pirate pitching staff is second in the league—second only to LA—with a 3.11 team ERA while the Bucs lead the NL with 80 home runs and rank third in hitting with a .268 average.

Don't count out the Cardinals, though, if they get a few more well-pitched games out of Ron Reed and Lynn McGlothen. They looked tough and made it possible for Al, The Mad Hungarian, to win those weekend games in relief.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

John, Tommy

John, Tommy

Biography

Tommy John Pitches For L.A. Tonight

JUL 12 1974 Community Affairs File

LOS ANGELES (UPI)— When the Los Angeles Dodgers left town to begin a 15-game road trip two weeks ago, Manager Walt Alston said he would be happy to win eight games on the trip.

His team returns to action at Dodger Stadium tonight after winning eleven of the fifteen games and increasing their lead in the National League West to 10 games.

"This was as satisfying a trip as I can remember," said Alston, the Dodgers' manager since 1954.

"To begin with," he said, "the Giants are always tough. I don't care where they are in the standings. It's always a battle. Well, we win three straight in Candlestick, and then do better than a split against the team we have to beat (referring to the Dodgers' taking three of four in Cincinnati.)"

The Dodgers won three of five in Montreal and ended the trip by taking two of three games in Philadelphia.

"We've been a good road club in recent years, but considering the number of games we faced this time, I can't recall a trip that was any better."

In their last homestand before the All-Star break, the Dodgers face the Mets, Expos and Phillies for three games apiece. Tommy John, bidding for his 14th win of the season, goes against Cy Young award winner Tom Seaver, 6-6, in tonight's game against the Mets.

The Dodgers' 10-game lead over Cincinnati is the biggest lead a Dodger team has enjoyed since the 1955 Brooklyn Dodgers won the National League by 13½ games.

Infielder-outfielder Gail Hopkins joins the team tonight. The 31-year-old Hopkins, who formerly played with the Chicago White Sox and Kansas City Royals, was hitting .301 in Hawaii when he was called up Thursday. Pitcher Rick Rhoden was returned to Albuquerque to make room on the roster.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File

John Left Off N.L. All-Star Roster

Biography

John, Tommy

Community Affairs File

Tommy Bitter Over Decision

JUL. 17.1974

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Willie Davis has this observation about his former team, the Los Angeles Dodgers:

"Nobody beats them but themselves. If they buckle up and play ball they're the best team around. If they get it together they'll win it. It's as simple as that. But they can beat themselves."

The Dodgers had just committed two errors, both of them contributing to runs, and Davis did the rest. He collected four singles and a double to lead Montreal to an 8-7 victory over the Dodgers Tuesday night.

The loss was the fourth in five games for the struggling Dodgers, and it left them only 6½ games in front of fast-closing Cincinnati Reds in the National League's Western Division. The Reds have picked up four games in a week on th Dodgers.

The win for the Expos moved them into second place in the East, 1½ games behind Philadelphia.

Tonight Montreal's Steve Rogers, 10-10, and selected today as one of the pitchers for the N.L. All-Star team, will oppose the Dodgers' Tommy John, 13-3, openly disgusted that he wasn't selected to the team.

The Expos opened a 5-0 lead in the first three innings, chasing Los Angeles starter Don Sutton off the mound in the midst of a three-run second inning. It marked Sutton's 13th straight failure to get his seventh win.

But the Dodgers rallied, scoring three runs in the seventh and four more in the eighth to move into a 7-6 lead. Pinch hitter Ken McMullen singled home the tying and go-ahead runs.

In the Expos ninth with knuckleballer Charlie Hough pitching, Montreal got even when Davis singled home pinch runner Boots Day, and then Ken Singleton produced the winning run with a sacrifice fly.

"Before when I faced the Dodgers I was edgy," Davis said after the game. "This time I relaxed and it paid off. It was a knuckler I hit for the tying run. It was there and the timing was right. Anytime you hit a knuckleball you have to be lucky. I was."

Of Hough, manager Walter Alston said:

"He isn't in the same groove he was earlier in the year."

The same can be said for the Dodgers, although they had their best hitting game since getting 13 hits two weeks ago in Montreal.

At least one looked like he started to come out of it a little," Alston said, refering to the club's week-long slump at the plate.

Steve Renko had blanked the Dodgers on three hits for six innings. But three successive singles loaded the bases and Bill Russell followed with a single for two runs. Pinch hitting Manny Mota singled the third run of the inning, the Dodgers' first successful pinch hit in their last 20 at bats.

They added four more in the eighth. Ron Cey singled home one run. Russell walked with the bases loaded for the second and then McMullen's pinch single through the middle drove in the final two.

John was left off the pitching staff named by New York Mets' Manager Yogi Berra and John said, "Berra selects his All Star team the way he manages—pitifully.

"In all my baseball career, I'd have to say this is the biggest disappointment I've had. What's the excuse? Berra or Bowie Kuhn or whoever saying a team can't have the pitchers is a lot of bunk. Just last year the Dodgers had three pitchers in there, Don Sutton, Claud Osteen and Jim Brewer."

Dodgers Mike Messersmith, 10-2, and Mike Marshall, 11-4 in relief, were picked for the team.

John added, "There's no question Andy and Mike should be in there and I should be there, too. It really sets you back. I've had a great year. I've worked hard and yet I can't even get picked for the All-Star team.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

JUL 22 1974

Tommy John Will Remain In Condition

Community Affairs File

Biography

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tommy John can't throw now but the ace left-hander of the Los Angeles Dodgers isn't moping about his future.

"I've got to make sure it gets plenty of rest and the chance to heal as much as it can," John said, holding out his arm to show the quarter-size spot of hemorrhaging on the inside of his left elbow.

John, whose 13-3 record makes him the biggest winner so far this season in the National League, suffered a ruptured ligament in the elbow Wednesday when he threw a fast ball against the Montreal Expos. He was placed on the disabled list, an automatic 21-day leave for pitchers.

However, John said he will know more about when he can pitch again after Aug. 1, when he and the Dodgers return from their next road trip.

"It'll be examined again then and if I get the doctor's okay, I'll start throwing," the 31-year-old pitcher said. "I've got to make sure it gets plenty of rest and has a chance to heal as much as it can."

John, who has been pitching professionally since 1961, said he had never experienced such an injury before.

"It felt like my arm was broken. There was a pop and pain. Then I threw another pitch and it felt like the elbow was just broken.

"I don't think it had anything to do with the operation," John said, referring to the surgery he had two winters ago to remove bone fragments from the elbow.

John said his forearm was sore Saturday.

"The doctor told me it's from muscle spasm, a natural reaction of the body to protect the tear. But I feel like I've done a lot of lifting, like moving a houseful of furniture."

John, who was bitter at not being selected on the National League All-Star team, will accompany the Dodgers on the road to Houston after the All-Star break.

"I'd rather be with the guys because I feel a part of the ball club. It's easier for me to keep on a schedule. I'll meet with the trainer each day at the ball park. If I stayed at home I'd have a tendency to backslide in my conditioning."

John intends to keep the rest of his body in shape while his elbow mends. He ran two miles around the inside of Dodger Stadium, then ran windsprints in the outfield before Saturday night's game.

"I'm trying to get up to four miles each day," he said, "now that I've got all this time off."

John, Tommy

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

X Distinguished Playing Terre Haute

National League West—

S APR 9 1973

Tommy John Tames Padres

Biography

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Reliever George Culver choked off a bases-loaded threat in the eighth inning and Joe Ferguson contributed a two-run double as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Diego Padres 4-0 Sunday.

Culver combined with winner Tommy John to pitch a eight-hitter as the Padres stranded 10 runners.

The Dodgers scored all of their runs in the first five innings off loser Steve Arlin, who is 0-6 lifetime against Los Angeles. Willie Crawford walked in the second inning and eventually scored on a single by Ken McMullen, who had three of the Dodgers' 11 hits.

Singles by Lee Lacy and on Joshua started a three-run flurry in the fifth. One run scored on a sacrifice fly by Bill Buckner. Willie Crawford drew an intentional walk before Ferguson hit his two-run double.

An error, a single by Leron Lee and a walk to Nate Colbert finished John with one out in the eighth. However, Culver struck out Clarence Gaston and retired Dave Hilton on a fly to right.

Reds 3, Giants 1

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cincinnati's Ross Grimsley, who has never lost to San Francisco in his major league career, continued his mastery by pitching a 3-1 victory over the Giants with last-out relief help from Pedro Borbon Sunday.

The Reds got a pair of runs off loser Tom Bradley, making his National League debut, in the first inning and added another in the second.

Joe Morgan started Cincinnati's two-run first by reaching first on a Willie McCovey error, stole second, moved to third on two walks, and came home on Tony Perez' sacrifice fly. Cesar Geronimo drove home Bobby Tolan with a single.

Cincinnati scored in the second on another sacrifice fly by Morgan.

The Giants had runners on base in all but the fifth and seventh innings. They finally punched over a run against in the ninth on Alan Gallagher's run-scoring single.

Three of the eight hits Grimsley allowed were by Tito Fuentes, who doubled in the first and singled in the third and sixth.

Astros, Braves Split

ATLANTA (UPI)—Mike Lum hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning for Atlanta to tie the game and drove in the winning run as the Braves beat Houston 4-3 in the second game o fa doubleheader. Houston won the opener 10-3 behind the lusty hitting of Cesar Cedeno.

Lum's ninth inning homer came with Dusty Baker on base to tie the game 3-3. In the 10th, Darrell Evans doubled and Baker was given an intentional walk by losing pitcher Jim Crawford. Lum, playing right field as Henry Aaron was being rested in the second game of the twinbill, smacked a homer about 400 feet into left centerfield.

Earlier, Houston had taken a 3-0 lead when pitcher Don Wilson doubled and was driven in by Jim Wynn's single. Wynn went to second on the throw, scampered to third on Tommy Helm's sacrifice and scored on Cedeno's bloop single.

In the fourth inning, Lee May scored for Houston on catcher Johnny Edwards' infield out. The winning pitcher was Joel Hoerner for one inning of one-hit ball.

Crawford pitched the 10th for Houston and was the losing pitcher.

Cedeno had five hits, four in the first game, scored three runs and knocked in three on the day. His hot bat has produced eight hits in the first three games of the season.

In the first game, the Astros exploded for eight runs in the sixth inning when Cedeno led off with a double, moved to second on a Bob Watson walk and scored when Lee May doubled. Doug Rader singled to drive in two runs but was thrown out trying to go to second. Johnny Edwards singled and scored on Roger Metzger's triple to deep centerfield.

Winning pitcher Ken Forsch walked and after an out, Tommy Helms singled. Cedeno doubled and Watson singled, knocking in the sixth and seventh runs of the inning and May singled Cedeno home with the final run of the frame.

Houston scored twice in the first inning when Wynn walked, stole second and went to third on an error. Wynn scored on Helms' infield out and Cedeno followed with a homer.

Forsch allowed only four hits and struck out four in going the distance.

John, Tommy

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

John, Tommy

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

TOMMY JOHN
May go to new team

John released by California

JUN 1 1985

Biography

ANAHEIM — Veteran left-handed pitcher Tommy John of Terre Haute, who has won 257 games in a major-league career that began in 1963, has been designated for release or assignment by the California Angels, the team said Monday.

John, who turned 42 last month, had a 2-4 record and a 4.70 earned run average for the Angels. He has a 257-201 major-league record.

John's spot on the roster was taken by former AL batting champion Rod Carew, who was reactivated after having been in the disabled list since May 20.

The first baseman is 44 hits shy of the 3,000-hit mark for his career. He is hitting .265 this season with one home run and 13 RBI.

John was acquired by the Angels from the New York Yankees on Aug. 31, 1982, and was 4-2 with California during the final month of the season in helping them win the AL West championship. He was 11-13 with a 4.33 ERA in 1983 and 7-13 with a 4.52 ERA in 1984.

"At the present time, we are in need of roster spots with the availability of players on the disabled list," said General Manager Mike Port. "We feel it is necessary at this time to keep us in a winning direction.

"Nonetheless, we wish Tommy John and his family the very best."

If John isn't picked up by another major league team within 10 days, the Angels can buy out his contract or make other arrangements, according to a spokeswoman for the club.

John, one of eight men in baseball history to win 20 or more games in both leagues, is 32nd on the all-time career win list and 34th on the career strikeout list with 2,047.

He graduated from Terre Haute Gerstmeyer High School in 1961 and signed with Cleveland that same summer. He has been with Cleveland, the Chicago White Sox, Los Angeles Dodgers and Yankees.

He and wife Sally are the parents of four children and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom John Sr., live in Terre Haute.

John, Tommy

Tommy John listens to what wife says

Biography

T SEP 20 1979

CLEVELAND (UPI) — Tommy John may not be henpecked, but he pays close attention to what his wife has to say.

The New York left-hander took his wife Sally's advice Wednesday a few hours before he went to mound, then allowed only three hits in leading the Yankees to a 2-0 victory over the Cleveland Indians.

"I call my wife every day when I'm on the road and today she told me to remember all the things I did at the start of the season (when he won nine straight) and to be loose on the mound," said John, who had lost his last three starts.

"She told me to concentrate more when I'm warming up prior to the game and it worked."

John,19-9, struck out seven before leaving the game with two out in the ninth when Toby Harrah bounced a single off his left leg. Ron Davis got the final out to preserve the victory and snap a four-game losing streak for Yanks.

"I had a good sinker tonight," said John. "I was moving toward first base with my motion, then moving toward the hitter and throwing the ball across my body. That way I was able to pull down on the ball and as a result I had a great sinker.

"When you are trying to win 20 games, you tend to put a little extra pressure on yourself but you still have to just do the best you can."

John's only 20-game season came in 1977 when he posted a 20-7 mark for the Los Angeles Dodgers and was runner-up to Philadelphia's Steve Carlton for the Cy Young Award.

Reggie Jackson got John all the runs he needed in the second inning when he belted his 26th homer of the season over the right field fence off Cleveland starter and loser Rick Wise.

TOMMY JOHN

Wise, who walked home the final run in the seventh, went the distance for the ninth time this season, allowing only four hits in losing his ninth game against 15 victories.

"Wise has been pitching outstanding baseball for us," said Cleveland manager Dave Garcia. "It was really something to see two guys (John and Wise) out there pitching the way they did tonight."

Andre Thornton sliced a double to right leading off the second inning and Dave Rosello blooped a single to center with two out in the eighth for the only other Cleveland hits.

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

John, Tommy

John Travis

Travis John still is unconscious (?)

AUG 18 1981

NEW YORK (UPI) — Travis John, the 2-year-old son of New York Yankees pitcherTommy John, was unconscious for the sixth consecutive day early today, but hospital officials said there is no evidence the boy suffered permanent brain damage in his three-story fall last week.

Doctors at New York University Medical Center said the boy was in critical but stable condition. They said a third "CAT" scan performed Monday showed no evidence of permanent brain damage.

The CAT scan produces a three-dimensional picture of the brain.

"He is still unconscious and still in critical condition," said spokesman John Deats.

Deats said that the scans were preliminary and more tests would be done.

John and his wife, Sally, have been at their son's bedside since the accident.

"Sally and I would like our friends and fans to pray for Travis to have a speedy recovery," John said.

The accident occurred late Thursday in Bay Head, N.J., at the Johns' rented summer cottage. Travis pushed through a third-floor screen window, tumbled onto the roof of a station wagon and landed on the driveway.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Biography - John

Doctors are hopeful

T AUG 1 4 1981

POINT PLEASANT BEACH, N.J. (AP) — Doctors say they're hopeful the 2½-year-old son of New York Yankees pitcher Tommy John will recover from a serious head injury he suffered when he tumbled three floors from the family's vacation home.

John's son, Travis, suffered a "serious cranial injury" in the fall Thursday evening, said Dr. Stanley Weinstein, a member of a Point Pleasant Hospital neurosurgery team that operated on the boy for 90 minutes.

Neither Weinstein nor hospital spokesman William Eastmond would elaborate on the boy's injuries, but Weinstein said he was hopeful the boy would recover.

Travis was rushed by police to the hospital from the scene of the accident in the neighboring seashore town of Bay Head.

Dr. John Crisanti, an emergency room physician who first examined Travis said he had suffered a "critical injury."

Following 90 minutes of neurosurgery, Travis was placed in the hospital's intensive care unit in critical condition, Eastmond said.

The boy had been playing in a third-floor room of the oceanfront home the family was renting when he climbed up to a window sill 2 feet off the floor, pushed against a screen and tumbled three stories onto the family's station wagon and onto the driveway about 6:25 p.m., said police officer Jeffrey Wells.

The boy's mother had picked the child up and carried him to the lawn when Wells arrived on the scene.

"He was breathing and had a heartbeat but he was unconscious," Wells said. "He appeared to have a concussion, and there was a small amount of blood oozing out of one of his ears.

A rescue squad worker who drove to the scene in his own car suggested that police not wait for an ambulance to take the boy to the hospital. Instead police took him in a patrol car.

By the time police and rescue squad workers had placed the boy into the car, he had regained consciousness and "was moving his arms," Wells said.

John, who was with the American League baseball team in Detroit, left immediately to be with his son, a team spokesman said.

John, Tommy

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Yolo County Public Library

John's son apparently escapes permanent injury

Biography John

T AUG 15 1981

NEW YORK (UPI) — Tests performed on the 2 ½-year-old son of Yankee pitcher Tommy John, who was critically injured in a fall from a third-story window, show the child apparently has escaped irreversible injury to the brain, hospital officials said today.

Travis John was reported in critical but stable condition today in NYU Medical Center, where his parents kept a vigil throughout the day and evening next to the child's bed in a pediatric intensive-care unit.

Dr. Fred Epstein, the pediatric neurosurgeon supervising the child's treatment, said test results showed there appeared to be no "irreversible injury to his brain," a hospital spokesman said.

The spokesman, John Deats, said today doctors will be monitoring the child's progress carefully during the next 48 to 72 hours, a crucial time in the recovery process.

"Sally and I want to ask all our friends to remember Travis in their prayers for a complete and healthy recovery," John said in a statement Friday.

Police said the boy, staying at a rented beach-front house with his mother, crawled out a third-floor window and fell onto a parked car in Bay Head, N.J., at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

The boy underwent an operation late Thursday night at a New Jersey hospital and was flown by helicopter to Manhattan Friday morning for the tests.

A distraught John and his wife arrived in Manhattan in a second helicopter minutes after their boy was flown in and were rushed to the hospital in an ambulance.

Yankee baseball team Vice President Cedric Tallis said the youngster, along with his brother and sister, frequently watched their father play.

"Everyone is concerned and we're praying for him," he said.

Vigo County Public Library
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
John, Tommy
Community Affairs File

TOMMY JOHN
Local player 41 soon

Tommy 'feels great'

Biography

MAY 1 0 1984

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Terre Haute's Tommy John, who celebrates his 41st birthday later this month, believes he can pitch successfully for several more years.

If his performance so far this season is any indication, he'll achieve that goal.

"People might laugh when I say this, but I think I can go another four or five years," said the veteran left-hander the other day. "This is the best I've felt in five years."

John's 2-3 record doesn't reflect how well he's pitched so far this year. He's completed two of his seven starts, averaged more than seven innings per outing, and has an outstanding 2.28 earned run average.

"He has been outstanding," said California Manager John McNamara. "He could easily be 5-0 right now."

John, who began his big league career with the Cleveland Indians in 1963, has a 250-187 lifetime record. He brought a 3.13 career ERA into the 1984 campaign.

It appeared his career had come to a premature end 10 years ago when he ruptured a ligament in his left elbow on July 1, 1974.

John underwent surgery two months later with a tendon from his right forearm used in the reconstruction of his left elbow.

He sat out the 1975 season but came back in 1976 to fashion a 10-10 record and a 3.09 ERA.

Since the surgery, he has recorded 126 of his 250 victories. His best seasons came in 1979 and 1980 when, as a member of the New York Yankees, he had 21-9 and 22-9 records, respectively.

John is looking forward to his next start, which will come in a nationally televised game Saturday at Detroit against the high-flying Tigers.

"They just have an outstanding ball club," John said when asked about the Tigers' amazing 25-4 start. "They're very talented, it's pure and simple.

"Plus they have two great pitchers (Jack Morris and Dan Petry). That will make it hard for them to have a losing streak, and when you throw in (Milt) Wilcox and (Juan) Berenguer, that's four pretty good pitchers."

The Angels are trying to rebound from a dreadful 1983 season. As late as July 10 of last year, after John hurled them to a 5-3 victory over the Boston Red Sox, they were 44-37 and tied for first place in the American League West.

However, the rest of the season was a disaster. California wound up with a 70-92 record, tied for fifth with Minnesota and 29 games behind the division-winning Chicago White Sox.

"We just had injuries," he said. "Sometimes you can overcome them, we weren't able to. We had a bad year.

"If we stay healthy this year, we may not win it, but we're going to be heard from, we're going to be an influence on whoever does win it."

Community Affairs File
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library

John, Tommy

Tommy John goes to Oakland A's

Biography

T s JUL 9 1985

Veteran Terre Haute pitcher Tommy John has agreed to join the Oakland A's.

John, 42, will work out in the A's bullpen, but won't be able to sign a contract with the team until certain details of his contract with the California Angels are resolved.

A's spokesman Mickey Morabito said, "Tommy's basically agreed. There's no problem between us and him." John, who graduated from Terre Haute Gerstmeyer and signed with Cleveland in 1961, was in Terre Haute for the funeral of his mother, Ruth John, last week and indicated then that he would be going to Oakland.

He hasn't pitched in a month and probably won't pitch for the A's until after the All-Star break. He must settle a salary and loan dispute with the Angels before signing the A's pact.

The A's and John contend that the Angels owe him his salary for another year and a half, through the 1986 season. John, who was released by the Angels last month, also has loans with that team reportedly totaling $200,000 to $300,000.

"He can't actually sign with us until he works out the loan situation," Morabito said. "There's a conflict of interest if a player is playing for one team while he owes money to another team."

"I should be ready to pitch by the All-Star break, or shortly thereafter," according to an Associated Press dispatch.

John, who will be paid only a minimum salary of $40,000 by the A's, will be getting paid from three teams once he signs his new contract.

"Unfortunately, logic in baseball does not always prevail," he said. "The Yankees are paying me deferred money through 2003, and that's not a conflict of interest. The Angels are paying me this year and next year, and that's not a conflict of interest. But they say me having a loan is."

TJ has been on five major league teams and has a career record of 257-201. He had a 2-4 record with a 4.70 earned run average when the Angels released him.

TERRE HAUTE'S TOMMY JOHN
To go with Oakland

"I think I can still pitch, and pitch effectively," John said last week.

"I've still got a few years and a lot of wins left in me. I thought about taking the rest of the year off with pay, but I realized I still love to play baseball too much to quit," John said during an afternoon press conference.

"I think I can still pitch, and pitch effectively," John said.

Asked whether he thought he would be used as a starter or a reliever, John said, "It's up to them."

"I've pitched out of the bullpen a few times but in my 21 years in baseball, my strength has been as a starter."

"I feel I've pitched as well in my last six starts in California as I have in the last two or three years."

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File